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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli, PLO Officials Iron Out Accord in Oslo

'Each Word' Under Discussion

NC0109092393 Paris AFP in English 0907 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Sept 1 (AFP)—Israeli and PLO officials are ironing out in Oslo the details of mutual recognition to end decades of enmity, a senior foreign ministry official said Wednesday [1 September].

"Each word of the statements the two sides will make to announce mutual recognition is being discussed," the official told AFP.

Uri Savir, director-general of the foreign ministry, and legal adviser Yo'el Singer have been in Oslo for the last two days.

Paragraph by paragraph the statement is being sent back to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for approval, the official said.

"These documents are highly sensitive and that's why it is taking time," he explained. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile in Oslo, the DAGBLADET newspaper quoting anonymous sources said that Savir was driven from a downtown hotel to the airport at 9 p.m. Tuesday to fly home after four days of intense meetings.

Press reports here said the talks mainly focused on the conditions for mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

Norway's Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst, meeting his Nordic counterparts on the Baltic island of Gotland, late Tuesday confirmed that Norway was continuing to play an important part in the peace process.

"It is only natural that there will be more meetings. Our role in the peace process is not over", Holst said when he arrived at Gotland.

"Personally I have been on the phone the whole night", he added.

The daily AFTENPOSTEN said that senior PLO official Abu-'Ala' and two other Palestinians attended Tuesday's meeting.

Abu-'Ala', also known as Ahmad Koray, was reported to have met Foreign Minister Shimon Peres during his visit to Oslo on August 19 and 20.

DAGBLADET said the latest round of talks had taken place on the 32nd floor of the fashionable Plaza Hotel, in Oslo, amid tight security.

On Monday, Holst said that Norway had hosted 14 secret meetings between Israeli and Palestinian delegation since January, 11 of them since May 1.

The negotiations in Oslo were instrumental in bringing about agreement on the Gaza-Jericho-first autonomy arrangement, Holst said.

The newspaper VERDENS GANG on Wednesday said two of the Norwegian negotiators, a married couple belonging to Holst's inner circle, arrived home late Tuesday night, apparently after taking part in the Israeli-PLO talks.

"If we had been to the cinema, we would have said so. You can interpret this any way you want, the two officials told the reporter from VERDENS GANG.

Further on Norway Contacts

TA0109114293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck]

[Excerpt] The Israeli-PLO contacts are apparently continuing. According to several Palestinian sources, contacts on the wording of the remaining points in the declaration Yasir 'Arafat is due to issue continue through facsimiles and telephone calls. A short time ago, we learned that Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, the Israeli representative to the talks with the PLO in Oslo, left the Norwegian capital on his way to Brussels where a conference of Israeli ambassadors is taking place. Therefore, the contacts, at least along that axis, have temporarily been suspended and are currently concentrated along other tracks. Anyway, the contacts lasted well into Tuesday [31 August] night in a hotel in central Oslo with the participation of three Norwegian mediators. Palestinian sources told us at midday that during the contacts in the wee hours an agreement was almost reached between Israel and the PLO on mutual recognition, but did not come about due to differences of opinion on several words in the final version of the agreement, which is what is holding up Yasir 'Arafat's announcement. It is now not clear when and where 'Arafat will make that declaration, which Palestinian sources said would lead to an immediate response by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israeli recognition of the PLO. [passage omitted]

Washington Talks Begin, Focus on Gaza-Jericho Plan

Delegates Said Waiting for 'Green Light'

TA0109070593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] In Washington, the delegates are waiting for the results of the contacts between Israel and the PLO and, essentially, for a green light from the PLO to sign the document of principles. The first day of talks in Washington ended with a note of expectation, both from the Arab delegations and the Israeli team. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports from Washington.

[Begin recording] [Amir] The first meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations lasted for approximately 90 minutes. At the meeting's conclusion, the parties did not make any statements shedding light on the agreement that was reached between Israel and the Palestinians. Yesterday's meeting with the Palestinians, just like those with the other Arab delegations, ended with a feeling that everyone was now waiting for the conclusion of the contacts between Israel and the PLO. After the meeting with the Palestinians had ended, Eytan Ben-Tzur, acting head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks in Washington, told us that Israel was now waiting for the agreement to be approved by the Palestinians, prior to signing the agreement as soon as possible in Washington. Ben-Tzur said that the meeting with the Palestinians had been businesslike and cordial. During the meeting, the delegations discussed the historic agreement that had been reached between the two peoples. I think, Ben-Tzur said, that the Palestinians fully realize that this is an important agreement with tremendous significance for the future of the Middle East and the future of Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian negotiating team, said at the end of the meeting that he and his colleagues were still studying the various components of the agreement. He pointed out that this was a historic moment, full of emotions, sensitivities, and great expectations for the future. 'Abd-al-Shafi emphasized that the Palestinian delegates would not forgo the Palestinian people's fundamental rights, or in other words, the recognition of their legitimate rights and the establishment of an independent state. We believe, he said, that the question of sovereignty is an issue of principle, and that the settlements run contrary to the very basis of peace. These, he asserted, were the important issues. Above everything else, 'Abd-al-Shafi said, stood the issue of East Jerusalem which was occupied territory. In conclusion, Dr.'Abd-al-Shafi stressed that the members of the Palestinian delegation were examining the agreement in order to be certain that it did not present any infringement of the Palestinian people's rights. At 1700 Israeli time today [1400 GMT], the second day of talks with the Arab delegations will begin. The talks will be conducted in the same framework as yesterday. The Israeli representatives will first meet with the Syrian, Jordanian, and Lebanese delegates, and then hold talks with the Palestinians at 2300 Israeli time, which is 1600 in Washington time. [end recording]

First Meeting Termed 'Anticlimax'

TA0109080493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Excerpt] The peace talks in Washington between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations began on a harsh note yesterday in Washington, with the Palestinians ostentatiously ignoring the document agreed upon between Israel and the PLO and the rapid progress made between the two parties. The signing of the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles is only expected at the end of next week. Our correspondent Natan Gutman reports from Washington.

[Begin recording] [Gutman] The great expectations from the 11th round of talks were dashed by reality in the first meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations. Although there has been a historic breakthrough and an open dialogue with the PLO has been established, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has not changed. Only the two delegation heads, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Eytan Ben-Tzur, actually sat down to hold a discussion. Ben-Tzur tried to brief 'Abd-al-Shafi on the agreements reached in Oslo, while the Palestinian delegate refused to show interest. At the end of the approximately 90-minute long meeting, Eytan Ben-Tzur made a somewhat forced effort to appear optimistic.

[Ben-Tzur] The talks with the Palestinians were businesslike and cordial. We hope that things will continue the same way tomorrow.

[Gutman] Where is the breakthrough we expected with the Palestinians?

[Ben-Tzur] As you know, the Israeli Government has approved the agreement, and we are now waiting for the Palestinian side to do the same so that we can formalize and sign the agreement in Washington as soon as possible.

[Gutman] For something that was expected to be an historic event, yesterday's meeting was a bit of an anticlimax.

[Ben-Tzur] The atmosphere in the room was most definitely cordial and relaxed.

[Gutman] Was there a festive atmosphere?

[Ben-Tzur] I do not know exactly what you mean by festive. The meeting was businesslike and cordial.

[Gutman] The Israeli delegation was not overly impressed by the difficulties encountered in the negotiations room. After all, the deals are being closed in Tunis, Jerusalem, and Oslo, not in Washington. Even if the Palestinian delegates are presenting a frosty demeanor, everyone knows that progress does not really depend on them. However, the Palestinian stand can nevertheless hold things up. A senior source in the Israeli delegation yesterday estimated that the document of principles could only be signed at the end of the second week of talks, on the eve of Rosh Hashana. Another question is: Who will sign it? It has been decided that on the Israeli side, it will be the head of the delegation. The question is who will be the signatory on the Palestinian side. The Palestinian delegates want it be a PLO official. Israel, so far, has not responded. It is also believed that Secretary of State Christopher may wish to sign the document himself, and that would raise the affair to the level of foreign ministers. Israel has no problem with Shim'on Peres signing, but what will happen if the

Palestinians send Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], or Faruq Qaddumi? [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi, 'Abd-al-Shafi on Agreement

TA0109091193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Excerpts] During the first day of talks in Washington, most of the contacts between the Israeli and Palestinian sides that were not conducted through the delegations were held between the PLO and Israel. This was what Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, told our correspondent Udi Segal in Washington.

[Begin recording] [Segal] [passage omitted] Today as well, the focal point of the negotiations was not here in Washington but rather behind the scenes in secret meetings between Israeli and PLO officials. This was revealed to IDF Radio by Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation.

['Ashrawi, in English] Well, it is still being negotiated by the people and the offices in the back channels. No, there are several issues that have to do with details, with the implementation steps. And, I think part of the success of this endeavor was that it was carried away from the media and the public eye. [passage omitted]

[Segal] After a short and tense meeting between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi presented a frosty position with regard to the signing of the document, which was concocted behind the back of the Palestinian delegation, and with which, he claimed, he was completely unfamiliar.

['Abd-al-Shafi speaks in Arabic, followed by Segal's translation into Hebrew] 'Abd-al-Shafi said: I clarified that we wish to ascertain that the document does not contravene the foundations of peace, or harm the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people. 'Abd-al-Shafi also enumerated the previous sticking points that the document did not address, such as the status of Jerusalem and the removal of settlements. There is a large gap between this position and the views expressed in Washington by PLO official Nabil Sha'th, who considers the agreement a historic breakthrough and certainly does not accept 'Abd-al-Shafi's criticism. From the little the Palestinian delegates have already learned about the agreement, they are trying to formulate positions on the various clauses. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the Palestinian demand, as stipulated in the agreement, is that the autonomy's legal institutions operate from Jerusalem, already in the interim stage.

['Ashrawi, in English] The fact is there are Palestinian institutions. There are Palestinian authorities and fields in Jerusalem. There is Palestinian ownership of land in Jerusalem. There is Palestinian historical presence in Jerusalem. There is Palestinian interests, and health, and educational institutions, and a driving Palestinian business community. All this has to be accommodated, because you cannot eradicate them.

[Segal] 'Ashrawi noted that as for elections in the territories, the agreement states that the residents of East Jerusalem will be able to vote and be elected, and that Israel has already agreed in principle that the Palestinian police force would also include Palestinians from outside the territories, or in other words, from the Palestinian diaspora. The Palestinians and the Israelis will meet at the State Department again this evening, but so far, it appears that the real action is taking place between Tunis and Jerusalem. [end recording]

Delayed Accord Signing Predicted

JN0109064493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Report by Hisham Milhim from Washington]

[Excerpt] The subject of who will sign the secretly-drafted Israel-PLO agreement and when they will sign it poses questions about the role of the Palestinian negotiating delegation. In the meantime, negotiations are expected to be held unofficially pending the outcome of the secret negotiations, which U.S., Russian, and Palestinian sources say are continuing outside Washington.

Chief Palestinian delegate Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said the two delegations did not officially meet Tuesday [31 August] afternoon. He said the meeting was confined to himself and Israeli deputy chief delegate Ben-Tzur. He said he expected the meetings to continue to be unofficial, although two or three from each side may attend.

Contrary to the optimism echoed by the PLO representatives, including Nabil Sha'th, who considered it a historic breakthrough that will soon be signed, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said his delegation is currently not in a position to sign the agreement. He added that the delegation is continuing its quiet and careful examination of the agreement to make sure that it responds to the basic Palestinian demands.

In a dialogue with Radio Monte Carlo, 'Abd-al-Shafi said he does not expect the agreement to be signed during this round of talks because signing it requires the approval of the PLO Executive Committee and other PLO institutions. He added:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] The agreement will not be signed until a month or two from now. [end recording]

'Abd-al-Shafi said since the PLO concluded the agreement, it would be more appropriate for it to sign it with Israel. Although he refused to assess the agreement in detail, he said he personally believes the agreement does not fulfill the minimum level of his expectations. He, however, indicated that the opportunity should be seized to learn the dimensions of this agreement and where it will lead before a final judgment is passed. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi on PLO Role in Talks

TA3108150993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Hanan 'Ashrawi, in an interview with IDF Radio, says that she believes the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians must be directly signed by Israel and the PLO. 'Ashrawi said, however, that 'Arafat has still not voiced his opinion on this issue, and if he orders that the delegations sign the agreement, it is possible that this will be done during this round of talks. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Segal] The members of the Palestinian delegation in Washington have reservations about the possibility that the agreement will be signed this week or later on during the 11th round of peace talks. The Palestinians are not ruling out the possibility of signing a document of principles, but they are emphasizing that many details regarding the implementation of the agreement still have to be worked out. They believe that the signing should be done by Israel and the PLO on the same level that was responsible for formulating the agreement. This is what Hanan 'Ashrawi told us a short time ago:

['Ashrawi, in English] We feel that since the Israelis found the proper address for the negotiations, for genuine substantive negotiations that achieve real progress on a preliminary agreement, that same address should be used for the signature, because it is time that the veil is removed and the game of charades ends and people talk to each other openly and directly, because I think this is a new leaf.

[Segal translates the above and continues] 'Ashrawi said that 'Arafat has still not expressed his opinion in this issue, but this is the opinion prevailing among the Palestinian delegation. If 'Arafat, however, orders that the delegation sign the agreement, this will possibly be done already during the present round of talks. The members of the delegation are presenting a pessimistic position, which is basically opposed to the signing of the agreement by them in Washington.

'Ashrawi also referred to the threats of the opposition factions. She said that despite the differences of opinion among the Palestinians in the territories, there are no threats against members of the Palestinian delegation, neither by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], nor by any other opposition element. 'Ashrawi said that the threats are emanating from foreign elements, referring to Iran and the rejectionist front abroad. [end recording]

Sha'th Expects Signature 'Within Month'

TA3108192693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th by Ehud Ya'ari "a short time ago" in Washington; conducted in English with Hebrew subtitles, processed from the English]

[Text] [Ya'ari] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, when do you expect the signature of the declaration of principles?

[Sha'th] I hope within a month or so, when we have done what the Israelis have done, that is, you have gone to your cabinet and probably to your Knesset. We will have to go to the PLO Executive Committee and to our central council to obtain authorization, and then we will proceed to signature.

[Ya'ari] Can we expect a cancellation of those irritating clauses of the Palestinian Covenant?

[Sha'th] I think that there are two things that have to be explained here. One is that there will be statements about the end of contradiction between those elements in the Covenant and the resolutions taken by the PNC [Palestine National Council] itself when it made the declaration of independence in 1988, accepting a two-state approach and accepting the partition plan, and then the decisions that the PNC itself took in 1991, deciding to go to Madrid to make peace with Israel. One has to really make a statement that clarifies that all elements of the Covenant that contradict this [word indistinct] will have now been surpassed. But then of course, there will come a time when a peace signed and the PNC itself has to make the changes when it meets.

[Ya'ari] Would you expect after an exchange of statements between Israel and the PLO that we would reach a stage of mutual recognition and direct, open, public contacts between the government and Israel and the PLO will take place?

[Sha'th] Absolutely. I mean this is our desire, and I think this is what made this peace possible.

[Ya'ari] Would you give a time span, what's the time frame as you see it?

[Sha'th] Of this mutual recognition?

[Ya'ari] Yes.

[Sha'th] I hope very soon.

[Ya'ari] Within a matter of days?

[Sha'th] I hope so.

[Ya'ari] Is there a possibility that a senior PLO official will attend at least the signing ceremony of the document here once the exchange of statements took place?

[Sha'th] I think so, particularly if that is followed by an American recognition, because that will require also America's acceptance, and not only our two parties—if the thing is going to be held in Washington.

[Ya'ari] And you expect an American recognition?

[Sha'th] I hope so, I certainly hope so, and very shortly, because America has played an important role in making this process work, but I hope now it recognizes and

supports the peace that has been reached by the two most important parties, and therefore gives it its blessing.

[Ya'ari] Some people of your delegation coming from the territories had some reservations and misgivings, probably misunderstandings, about the document. Is it all settled now?

[Sha'th] Yes, yes, we are here one delegation. We have always been the delegation of the PLO, but now that Israel accepts that I think there is more reason that this delegation will continue its commitment and its hard work for the completion of the work that we have started 22 months ago.

[Ya'ari] Some changes in the composition of the delegation?

[Sha'th] It will be natural, of course, if the recognition of the PLO brings some new members. It will be natural to expand the delegation, but we have really no reason to eliminate any of the delegates.

[Ya'ari] Finally, Dr. Sha'th, this is history or an illusion of history?

[Sha'th] This is history. We are not talking about a cease-fire or a temporary agreement. Of course, this is an interim agreement, but I think it has ushered in a historical reconciliation, a historical peace with justice that will last, I think.

'Urayqat Comments on Coordination

NC0109070593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy chairman of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Washington, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program on 31 Aug]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Let us begin with the major topic in this round: autonomy in the occupied Arab territories and the Gaza-Jericho plan.

['Urayqat] It seems that very significant developments have occurred. The most significant of all is that the wall separating the PLO leadership from the Israeli Government has collapsed. I will be sincere with you. I was informed about these negotiations and the agreement only 48 hours ago. It seems the agreement, which is not complete, integrates the transitional with the final phases. The proposed agreement is not about autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, but about full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, Jericho, and the area in between within the framework of an agreement by which transitional arrangements will apply to the remaining occupied areas, with special arrangements for Jerusalem, over a specified timetable. This involves the implementation of Resolution 242; the text provides for implementing that resolution.

As deputy chairman of the Palestinian delegation, I did not read the full details of the project. But I can say that further developments will occur in light of this first move, that is, whether the structure of the Palestinian delegation will undergo rudimentary change after the collapse of the Madrid equation. If there is any agreement, the PLO leadership will naturally sign it.

There is the American role, too. It seems the Americans were surprised by events. That's what they told us yesterday. This makes it incumbent upon the American sponsor to resume dialogue with the PLO.

But the agreement our leadership summed up for us is a step involving several points, the most important of which is the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, the simultaneous application of transitional arrangements in other areas, holding UN-sponsored political public elections within nine months, and deploying international and Palestinian forces from outside the territories in the areas the Israeli troops evacuate. And there are points involving the implementation of Resolution 242 and the return of the refugees who left in 1967 once the phased agreement is enforced. There are issues concerning the powers of the council, which will have legislative, executive, and judicial power. There will also be a full economic cooperation program involving the entire peace process. This will have regional effects.

What counts is that there is a beginning for withdrawal and, consequently, for implementing the final solution. Proposed in Gaza and Jericho is not autonomy, but the withdrawal of the Israeli troops and their replacement with international and Palestinian troops.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Urayqat, do you believe this historic shift by the Israeli Government—remarks by Peres that Israel might soon recognize the PLO and expectations that negotiations will be held directly between Israel and the PLO in the next stage—and these dramatic changes can boost the peace process in general and the Palestinian-Israeli track in particular?

['Urayqat] I agree that rudimentary shifts have occurred: The Madrid equation has collapsed and the PLO leadership is now officially engaged in negotiations with the Israeli Government. I believe the Madrid framework for negotiations will undergo rudimentary change. Yesterday's session of talks between ourselves and the Israelis was just a formality. It seems negotiations are going on elsewhere. As I told you, I have not read the full details of what happened. I don't know who engaged in these negotiations or what the articles of the agreement are. The leadership gave us a brief summary. I cannot judge.

[Al-Jundi] Do you think negotiations are being held elsewhere, through mediators or directly, between Israel and the PLO?

['Urayqat] I cannot say for sure; I have no information on how these negotiations were held or are being held right now. I have no information. Our information affirms that the official PLO leadership and the Israeli Government are the two sides engaged in negotiations. This is a very significant development; it torpedoed the

Madrid equation. I believe one of the next steps will involve rudimentary change in the nature of negotiations and the structure of the negotiating delegation. As I told you, if an agreement is reached, the official political leadership of our people, the PLO, will sign it. It is too early to tell whether such an agreement will be reached or signed. But this is a new signal that should be studied carefully. I was surprised to learn about contacts behind the scenes and about the agreement. It is normal for leaders to have their own channels of communication.

[Al-Jundi] Do you mean the secret negotiations held in the past between some PLO members and members of the Israeli Government were effective?

['Urayqat] This is clear. I believe that what is required now is to recognize this PLO role and resume the American dialogue with the PLO. Many things will change. For the past three years, the Palestinian track has dragged behind the others. If we are on the verge of an initial agreement on a declaration of principles that involves withdrawal and the implementation of Resolution 242, this means we are now on equal footing with the other delegations. This certainly paves the way for a comprehensive peace involving all the parties. The Palestinians have reiterated that peace cannot be real unless it is comprehensive and involves all the fronts.

[Al-Jundi] How can we use this progress on the Palestinian- Israeli track to serve the other tracks?

['Urayqat] As I said, the peace process must be viewed in a panoramic, strategic perspective. Peace with Israel must be achieved along all fronts. We affirm that separate bilateral agreements are not possible. If reports are true about an advanced agreement on Israel's withdrawal and the implementation of Resolution 242, this means the Palestinian track is now treated on an equal basis with other tracks. The issue requires very deep coordination between the PLO and the brothers in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and other Arab states. The issue reflects on all the parties involved. There must be coordination as soon as possible. Clear strategies must be developed by all the Arab parties to prove beyond doubt that peace must be comprehensive.

Rabinovich on U.S. Reaction to Agreement

TA0109071593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Washington is waiting for the declaration of mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO that would pave the way for the signing of the document of principles between Israel and the Palestinians next week, and presumably, to the resumption of the dialogue between the United States and the PLO. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan reports:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Israeli sources in Washington estimate that the United States has begun to signal that it intends to change its previous decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO. [passage omitted]

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington, said that the United States knew what was happening in the contacts between Israel and the Palestinians and was not surprised. The U.S. Administration was not angry at Israel, Rabinovich said.

[Rabinovich] In all my contacts, mainly with senior U.S. officials—since I cannot be responsible for every statement made by every official on every occasion, such as the secretary of state during the meeting in California—and the reactions of other senior officials dealing with the peace process, I can say that first of all, there was no surprise. As we know, the United States has been kept in the general picture of the Oslo contacts for some time already, so it was not surprised by the news. There was a positive, even very positive reaction to what has been accomplished. Afterwards, I would say that a pragmatic approach was taken. An approach that seeks to extract the most out of this progress, both with regard to the Palestinian track, as well as the entire process. [end recording]

Rabinovich on Status of Syrian Track

TA3108122293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States and head of the delegation for talks with the Syrians, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan "about an hour ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] We asked Itamar Rabinovich about the dissatisfaction emanating from Damascus because of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement and for his reaction to this dissatisfaction.

[Rabinovich] We will meet the Syrian delegation tomorrow. I assume that when we open tomorrow's round, just as with previous rounds, we will deal with a mutual analysis of the developments that took place between the last and the current rounds. We will surely also discuss the agreement that was achieved between Israel and the Palestinians. We will make it clear to the Syrians that their interests and the interests of the Israeli-Syrian track need not be affected by this agreement, and I hope that their response will reflect a similar view.

[Friedman] Can you understand Syrian fears, to the effect that now that Israel has reached a first agreement with the Palestinian delegation, progress on that track looks more promising? Are they afraid this will detract from Israel's willingness to make large strides toward an agreement with them, or are they troubled by other matters?

[Rabinovich] If I placed myself in the Syrians' shoes I would probably have seen a mixed picture. Linkage between the Syrian and Palestinian tracks has become a moot point in the past year. The Syrians demand that a separate agreement not be reached, that any Syrian-Israeli agreement rather reflect the efforts of an overall agreement as well, as opposed to our demand that an Israeli-Syrian agreement stand on its own feet. What we

see here then is an Israeli-Palestinian agreement which should dissipate Syrian fears, thus facilitating progress on the Israeli-Syrian track. Conversely the Syrians are surely afraid that in reaching an agreement with the Palestinians, Israel may want to rest on its laurels and not progress, or rather not progress quickly, in the Syrian talks. I think we have heard this fear in Syrian comments made over the last two days. It is for this reason that we have direct talks, though. If the Syrians are apprehensive or if they want to receive an explanation about the significance of the agreement between us and the Palestinians and its implications for the Syrian track, the place to seriously discuss this is at the negotiations table.

[Friedman] If Elyaqim Rubinstein resigns finally from his position as chairman of the Israeli delegations, will it be you, Itamar Rabinovich, who will replace him in this senior position?

[Rabinovich] No, Itamar Rabinovich strongly hopes that Elyaqim Rubinstein decides to come to Washington. I have enjoyed working with Elyaqim very much so far, and I hope we will continue to cooperate this coming week as well as in the future.

[Friedman] Who will sign this Israeli-Palestinian agreement in Washington in the coming days?

[Rabinovich] As we understand matters today, the agreement needs to be raised in the negotiations between the two delegations. Unless we hear otherwise, it will be the delegations' leaders who will sign it. This is the situation as of today.

[Dan] Is everything ready for the signing, or are there additional obstacles still?

[Rabinovich] Surely not everything is ready. We still need to be convinced that our delegation will find itself talking with a Palestinian delegation which will accept the agreement and not try to question any of its components anew, a Palestinian delegation which will be prepared to sign the agreement as it is. A few more work days will surely be necessary, and the Americans will want to ascertain that the Palestinian delegation indeed accepts the agreement before they handle it any further. Therefore, we are surely facing another few days of work before we can be sure that we are about to sign the agreement.

[Friedman] Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador in Washington, thank you very much.

[Rabinovich] Thank you and good morning.

Syria's al-'Allaf: Discussion 'Serious'

JN3108210293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, the head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has described today's discussion during the first meeting of the 11th round as serious, but pointed out that it is the coming days that will determine if this seriousness will lead to progress.

In a statement to journalists, al-'Allaf said today's meeting reviewed a draft declaration of principles for a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East, which was presented by Syria during the sixth round of these talks in order to explore the possibility of removing the remaining obstacles in that declaration.

Al-'Allaf added that the meeting also discussed what took place during the period between the 10th round and the beginning of the 11th round in an attempt to conclude some results and concentrate on the positive points.

Answering questions, al-'Allaf said it was impossible to talk about achieving progress, but it was possible to talk about the beginning of a serious discussion. He also explained that the review of the draft declaration of principles has not yet touched on more sensitive matters. But, he said, if the discussion continues in this serious manner, there will be hope for achieving some progress.

Comments on Gaza-Jericho Plan

NC3108063093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, chairman of the Syrian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Washington, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-'Allaf] Thank you very much.

[Al-Jundi] The logical question revolves around what you think the current round of peace talks might produce.

[Al-'Allaf] Of course, we are somewhat tired of voicing our expectations about the many rounds of talks. In the past, we were disappointed after every round because the other party that impeded progress disappointed us when it came to its seriousness in the talks. This time, and after the intensive contacts with the parties concerned, particularly the American side, we hope the impressions we have been given about the seriousness of the Israeli side are justified.

[Al-Jundi] Clearly, this round might experience a sort of warming up, particularly along the Palestinian-Israeli track. There is a possibility of reaching autonomy in Gaza and Jericho. How do you analyze this warming up along one track? And how can this affect other tracks?

[Al-'Allaf] Your question has two parts. On things warming up or the seriousness you mention along one track, progress is supposed to occur along all the tracks. We are involved in a peaceful process that seeks a just

and comprehensive peace to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. This peace should involve all Arab parties. Any serious progress within the framework of the principles of the peace process will certainly reflect positively on all other tracks. We must eventually establish this comprehensive peace together.

We don't have much information about what is being said on the subject of progress. You said this concerns first applying autonomy, as you termed it, in Gaza and Jericho. If this is what you mean, we have been working for two years to apply the transitional period to all the occupied Arab Palestinian territories. As I said, we have no details on this issue. I trust that the Palestinian people will only choose what serves their interests and brings them closer to their right to self-determination quickly.

[Al-Jundi] The Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is the essence of your negotiations with the Israeli side. Can we say that the new round of talks—the 11th round—might witness specific proposals along the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Al-'Allaf] We hope the Israeli side will finally allow the entire peace process and all the Arab parties to overcome the obstacles that hindered progress during previous rounds, that is, Israel's failure to comply with that to which it should have committed itself from day one. I am talking about full withdrawal from the Arab lands it occupied in 1967. As I said, the impression we were given along the Syrian track was that Israel is serious this time. But, as I said, we do not like to repeat positive expectations for fear that disappointment will result. We are full of hope and are serious about seeking progress toward the desired just and comprehensive peace. If we find that the Israeli side is positive in this round, we will reciprocate, as we have always done. We hope this positiveness and seriousness will involve all the tracks.

[Al-Jundi] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has recently been discussing withdrawal in Golan rather than from Golan. This is the phrasing Rabin used. If Israel really withdraws from Golan, what can the Syrian side offer in terms of flexibility with the Israeli side?

[Al-'Allaf] First, the phrasing you mention has been the language of previous rounds. If such phrasing is pursued in this round, it will mean Israel has not changed its stance and the seriousness attributed to it is not true.

But if the Israeli side makes a commitment now about full withdrawal, as it should do in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338, we will take this as Israeli acceptance of the rules and principles of the peace process. We have long expressed our willingness to contribute to this just and lasting peace. We put forward an important and integrated paper covering what we believe are the necessary conditions for letting both sides enjoy this just and lasting peace.

[Al-Jundi] There is a negotiating rule that says: If you want to get what's possible, ask for the impossible. But what is the possible that Syria seeks?

[Al-'Allaf] There is nothing impossible in the Middle East peace process. Everything requested is not only possible, but is also demanded and should be achieved according to the principles of the peace process and the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We seek nothing impossible; all we demand is an Israeli duty. All Israel need do is withdraw from the land it occupied by war in a way that is viewed as unacceptable and illegal by the UN Security Council resolutions.

[Al-Jundi] Does the Syrian side demand withdrawal or a settlement?

[Al-'Allaf] We demand full and comprehensive withdrawal conducive to a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement that ends the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Al-Jundi] We thank Ambassador Muwaffaq al-'Allaf.

[Al-'Allaf] Thank you.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Abu-Sharif on Recognition, Future Government

NC0109064293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Report by Andre 'Aziz Mubawij from Paris]

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that there is no logical reason to prevent Israel from recognizing the PLO, especially as 'Arafat recognized the Jewish state in a speech before the United Nations in 1988. Abu-Sharif said [Israel's] dealings with the PLO have become direct and clear. Clarifying his statement yesterday that 'Arafat intends to dissolve the PLO and replace it with a Palestinian government, Abu-Sharif said:

[Begin recording] I said the more we build the foundations of an independent state, the less the PLO structure is required. I said that, in the future and within the framework of the state, there will be political pluralism and political parties, with each party having its own program defending the interests of the various sections of the Palestinian people. The PLO is a bridge, not a goal; it is a bridge for the Palestinian people toward their national independence. It is not a goal in and of itself. [end recording]

On the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Abu-Sharif said its clauses and titles are clear and nothing is secret. He said important developments will take place in the next few hours, adding that the U.S. Administration knows of all these events. He expressed the belief that an announcement on the beginning of the implementation of the agreement will be made in the next few hours. On whether the implementation of the agreement will begin in the next few weeks, Abu-Sharif said some measures and details must be agreed upon first.

Predicts 'Important Developments'

JN3108183793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi, carried within "With the Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif: The Israeli Government has endorsed the Gaza-Jericho First plan. What is the Palestinian opinion on this decision, and when will a Palestinian statement be issued?

[Abu-Sharif] This step is very positive and constitutes a turning point, but we do not have any illusions about future difficulties. However, it undoubtedly expresses a very important turning point and may be historic. When we, as the PLO, proposed through our President Yasir 'Arafat this first step toward achieving national independence, we knew that we were facilitating the peace process. Now that the Israeli Government has responded, I believe that the next logical step is for the Israeli Government to recognize the PLO and deal directly with the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

[Mu'addi] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today announced that Israel is ready to recognize the PLO after the PLO renounces terrorist actions?

[Abu-Sharif] This is quite natural. We renounce terrorist operations, and I hope that Minister Peres is now listening to me. We also recognize Israel, as well as Resolutions 242 and 338. Yasir 'Arafat announced all these things in a speech before the UN General Assembly. He also announced in Paris that the PLO's current program is the prevailing one, and canceled all other previous programs. There is no logical reason for the Israeli Government not to recognize the PLO.

[Mu'addi] When will PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announce this decision in public?

[Abu-Sharif] President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has already announced this, and I do not believe there is a problem in reaffirming these matters.

[Mu'addi] What is your comment on the tension the Syrian, the Jordanian, and the Palestinian delegations in Washington feel as a result of reaching the Gaza-Jericho First accord?

[Abu-Sharif] I do not believe there is any tension. There is agreement between us and our Arab brothers, and we all agree to maintain a unified Arab policy during the negotiations in order to apply Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. There is also agreement that any progress on any front should mean progress on other fronts.

[Mu'addi] What is the PLO's reply to statements by the rejectionist fronts and to threats to kill Yasir 'Arafat?

[Abu-Sharif] We believe that the war for the establishment of peace is much more difficult than a military war. But we in the Palestinian arena have entrenched traditions that democracy is a right of all people and that the minority has the right to express its opinion. Even if this means it mobilizes the masses in support of its opinion and position. The majority also has that right. But the minority cannot be allowed to act as it wishes. It should consider the majority's view the official one. Regarding threats, President Yasir 'Arafat will be protected by all the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and elsewhere.

[Mu'addi] Let me ask my last question. After the Israeli Government endorsed the accord, when do you expect the Israelis and the Palestinians to sign the agreement in Washington, and who will sign for the Palestinian side?

[Abu-Sharif] Sa'id, I do not know. However, I have the impression that within the next 24 or 48 hours, very important developments will take place, and I believe that Peres' departure for Washington will be an important signal of what can be reached in Washington.

[Mu'addi] Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat. Thank you very much.

[Abu-Sharif] You are welcome.

PNC Secretary on Mubarak-'Arafat Meeting

NC3108210193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1958 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Secretary Muhammad Subayh has said that President Husni Mubarak is actively moving to advance the peace process and make the peace talks successful through intensive international and Arab contacts.

He told MENA that the meeting between Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today was extremely positive. He said 'Arafat left Cairo assured of Egypt's great support for the Palestine question and the attainment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Subayh said Israel should now implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement of principles, which includes the Gaza-Jericho First plan, fully and swiftly to facilitate the peace process. It should transfer power to the Palestinian people, end all human rights violations in the occupied territories, and release Palestinian detainees.

Concerning Israel's demand that some paragraphs on Israel be removed from the Palestinian charter, Subayh recalled that in May 1989, after the historic PNC meeting in November 1988—in which the Palestinian state and the recognition of Israel were declared—President 'Arafat announced that the charter was nuil and void.

As for an end to violence in the occupied territories after signing the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, Subayh

explained that the Palestinian leadership will be responsible for any city it receives from the Israeli occupation forces, not for those under the control of the Israeli forces.

He said the sooner the Israelis pull out of the occupied Palestinian territories, the less violence they will face. No Palestinian can have control over a place under Israeli occupation, he said.

Subayh said 'Arafat's visit to Khartoum today is aimed at informing the Sudanese Government of the agreement reached with the Israelis.

17,000-Strong PLA Force To Redeploy in Gaza, Jericho

NC3108212393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2107 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—A responsible Palestinian source in Cairo has said that the PLO has begun to reorganize units of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA], consisting of 17,000 soldiers, to take over the mission of security in Gaza and Jericho after Israel's withdrawal from them.

The source said that the force, which will be called "Palestinian Central Security Forces," will be deployed afterwards in the entire West Bank and Gaza.

The source said that some 5,000 Palestinian soldiers in camps in Sudan, Libya, Yemen, and Iraq will join the force.

Poll: Agreement Supported by Majority of Gazans

TA3108173393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] In the Gaza Strip, AL-SHURUQ newspaper issued this morning reported that the percentage of supporters of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement has reached 76.4 percent. Our correspondent 'Abd-al-Wahhab Zahdi reports that this percentage was derived, according to AL-SHURUQ, from a random telephone poll conducted with 373 residents of Gaza Strip towns and refugee camps. In the coming days, several popular meetings will be held in Gaza and Hebron by groups supporting the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Fatah Rejects Accusations by Opposition on Gaza-Jericho

TA3108172993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] The Fatah Movement in the territories today strongly rejected accusations by parties opposed to the peace process that the Gaza-Jericho First agreement is considered trading with the Palestinian cause, and condemned threats to liquidate Yasir 'Arafat.

The political committees in the West Bank will shortly launch a widespread campaign to explain the Palestinian-Israeli agreement to the public in the territories.

Al-Husayni To Meet With Residents

TA0109103093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, this morning launched a series of meetings designed to explain the details of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement to the Palestinians in the territories. Our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus reports that al-Husayni met opposition leaders this morning and will meet those members of the Palestinian delegation who did not leave for Washington this afternoon.

According to residents in the territories, al-Husayni seeks to make sure that the political debate over the agreement does not turn violent. Today, rallies in support of the agreement are scheduled to take place at al-Najah University in Nabulus and in the town of Jericho.

DFLP Terms Gaza-Jericho Plan 'Mockery'

JN3108143093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Statements by Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] The Madrid formula, as imposed on the Palestinian team, involved negotiations over two phases, one transitional and one final. According to what the Israeli Government has announced, and what was cooked up in Oslo, we have three phases. Only God, Clinton, and Tel Aviv know how many phases the administrative self-rule will be divided into during this transitional period.

Clearly, what has been proposed is an early transfer of certain responsibilities from the Israeli civilian self-administration to a Palestinian self-administration on part of the Palestinian territory, the Gaza Strip and Jericho, without having sovereignty over it. Consequently, Rabin will rid himself of the nightmares he was having. Rabin has hoped that he will wake up one day to see the Gaza Strip disappearing into the sea. The direct military suppression will be relieved of 1 million people in Gaza and Jericho and will be turned into a suppression at the hands of the Palestinian police if this tragic and gruesome agreement is passed. The occupation authorities will then turn their attention to redeploying troops in Gaza Strip and Jericho. Withdrawal from a single inch from the Gaza Strip and Jericho has not been proposed. What has been proposed is a redeployment of Israeli troops while keeping all the settlements, military and security areas, roads, and crossroads in the hands of the Israeli occupation authorities in Gaza and Jericho. The occupation authorities will also be able to devote

themselves to liquidating the intifadah of the remaining 1 million people who live on 5,500 square km of the occupied Palestinian territories. In the meantime, 1 million people will be living on just over 600 square km under a Palestinian police force. We will then see new waves of immigration in the direction of Gaza and Jericho and from there to Jordan and Egypt.

This mockery—which was hatched in the dark, behind the scenes, and behind the back of the PLO Executive Committee, the Palestine National Council, the PLO Central Committee, and the Palestinian people, who today declared a general strike against the Jericho-Gaza option and against the course of the current bilateral talks—clearly shows that we are heading toward what is more bitter and dangerous than the inter-Palestinian division that the Rabin government wishes to see. Therefore, we urge a return to a round table meeting, attended by Palestinians from the occupied territories and the diaspora to reach national common denominators and rebuild the negotiations process on new foundations: negotiations on a single phase, not three phases, within the framework of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land for peace formula, and with a united delegation from Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the diaspora. Anything less will mean total destruction.

Communist Party Spokesman on Gaza-Jericho Plan

TA3108161993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 31 Aug 93 pp 1, 15

[Text] An official spokesman of the Palestinian People's Party has stressed that the party affirms, in principle, its political commitment to the political process; that its support for any steps or agreements being talked about is linked to a clear implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, including its application on Jerusalem; and that the party's official position on the current Gaza-Jericho First proposal will be determined after that proposal is presented to the PLO's legitimate bodies that are authorized to discuss and review it and after the party studies the proposal in its special institutions.

The spokesman called for utmost alertness against the spread of discord in the ranks of the Palestinian people and their various institutions, and affirmed the importance of the unity of Palestinian national forces and the enhancement of the PLO's status and its legitimate bodies.

The spokesman also affirmed that the representatives of the People's Party will not participate in the upcoming round of talks in Washington for the same reasons that prompted the suspension of this participation in the ninth and 10th rounds.

Further on PFLP-GC Leader's Threats Against 'Arafat

JN3108195893 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] In a statement on the conspiracies of the self-administration and the Gaza-Jericho First plan, Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], said that 'Arafat has accepted the American-Zionist plan to apply the conspiracy of self-administration in Gaza and Jericho for a trial period despite the fact that there has been a total popular objection since the start of the negotiations. He said that a strike was staged on 23 September 1992 inside [the occupied territories] and abroad, and that other strikes followed in protest of the march of capitulation. Similar strikes were also staged on 27 August in Lebanon, where all the sectors of the Palestinian masses directed severe criticism at the Tunis leadership, which took part in the meeting of the cordon states' foreign ministers in Beirut.

The Palestinian masses called for an immediate withdrawal from the capitulationist Washington negotiations. The most serious point in 'Arafat's acceptance of this offer, he said, is that 'Arafat is preparing for a bloody civil war among the brothers inside the occupied territories. This, he added, is 'Arafat's response to the Zionist plan to stop and destroy the intifadah.

Ahmad Jibril continued: We remind 'Arafat that honorable people in the Palestinian arena have launched more than one initiative to begin a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue to stop the current collapse in the PLO and its institutions but received nothing other than procrastinations. Therefore, we appeal to our heroic Palestinian people to stop this wicked plot. We are also certain that the vanguards of our people inside [the occupied territories] and the diaspora will not allow peddling this conspiracy.

As we remind 'Arafat of the fate of al-Sadat [former Egyptian President] and that of 'Isam al-Sartawi and other Palestinians and Arabs, we affirm that he and those who are with him will pay the price. Tomorrow will come soon.

Dissident Fatah Labels PLO 'Treasonous Clique'

JN3108201393 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] The [dissident] Fatah Central Committee has issued a statement saying the Gaza-Jericho First option is the culmination of an approach of relinquishment and treason pursued by those controlling PLO decision-making for many years.

The statement adds: This conspiracy creates circumstances conducive to the outbreak of bloody conflicts and civil war ignited and nurtured by the treasonous clique in the service of the Zionist entity.

The statement says that the Gaza-Jericho option would entrench Zionist occupation of Palestine and recognize its legitimacy as a prelude to Judaizing territory and peddling the conspiracy of the alternative homeland.

The statement appeals to the masses of our people to deny our people's enemies the chance to pursue the conspiracies that aim at igniting a civil war to liquidate the intifadah, encourage emigration from Palestine, and establishing a federation with the Zionist enemy against our Arab and Islamic nation.

It adds that Palestinian national forces of all shades are asked to take a serious stand toward the current developments. Everybody is asked to abandon hesitation, demonstrate a decisive attitude toward this treasonous clique, and announce that these national forces are the PLO.

Significance of Gaza-Jericho Option Viewed

Plan To 'Pave Way Toward Full Freedom'

JN3108140393 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Gaza-Jericho First is the beginning. It certainly is a sound start, as long as it is based on the principle of a full withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces. Gaza-Jericho First and always first because there is a second, a third, and a fourth step until the Israeli occupation forces withdraw from all the occupied Palestinian territories. Gaza-Jericho First so that we can lay the foundations of the state, establish its institutions, entrench its realities, and pave the way toward full freedom and independence.

Gaza-Jericho First allows the Palestinians to better explain their political approach and show their genuine interest in reaching a just and comprehensive peace that secures all our people's just and legitimate national rights.

Gaza-Jericho First shows the staunchness of the Palestinian stand, not to mention the emphasis that has been placed on the principled national constants. The solution begins from here; from the full withdrawal of the occupation forces and from the enemy's evacuation from our land. We have struggle and will continue to struggle to achieve such a withdrawal. When we lay the strong foundation away from the occupation and under the Palestinian flag, Palestinian sovereignty, Palestinian parliament, Palestinian legislations, and Palestinian executive power, the Palestinian state will emerge as an irrefutable reality.

With this in mind, we are now at a historic turning point that will move us forward if the option is achieved as we want, namely, the Gaza-Jericho First option, which has become a practical and real prelude for achieving progress and success in the peace negotiations. This is because it constitutes the Palestinians door, which is the only door that leads to the success of the negotiations and the attainment of its declared objectives of establishing just peace. If there is something to be said about this option, it is to emphatically state that this option will not conflict with the interests of any of the Arab parties that are involved in the negotiations. It also does not threaten or endanger anyone. It is the option that will open the door, the option that will be the introduction to the possible solution, the option of the practical establishment and formation of the independent Palestinian state that will inevitable materialize so long as this option, as we have said, is based on the principle of the full withdrawal of the occupation forces. This is only the beginning.

'Important Events' Predicted

TA3108172393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 31 Aug 93 p 9

[Editorial: "A Wait-and-See Attitude—In Anticipation of Impending Developments"]

[Text] Tension and a wait-and-see attitude prevail in the Palestinian and Israeli arenas in anticipation of the outcome of developments over the next few days and weeks, as well as in anticipation of the two sides' ability to achieve actual progress toward peace in the interest of all the region's peoples.

Irrespective of the proposals on which discussions are being held—discussions that have led to agreement on what is known as the Gaza-Jericho plan—and if we also put aside the conflicting Palestinian views over those proposals, one reality has become very clear, namely, that we are on the verge of witnessing important events in the peace process.

If one is an optimist, it can be said that it will be possible to overcome the numerous obstacles confronting the proposals or the so-called agreements. Those obstacles are not simple. The Israeli opposition has mobilized its forces in an attempt to put back the peace process in a dead end. Certain Palestinian circles also are expressing their skepticism about the benefit of the current proposals and plans, which embody only a very minor part of basic Palestinian demands.

Israel, though, is the party that can maneuver within framework of the peace process. Consequently, its position will determine the firmness and progress of that process. To a large extent, however, this position will remain subject to domestic considerations, particularly after the element of U.S. pressure has been neutralized and the U.S. position has become almost identical to the Israeli position in the negotiations.

The other possibility, in variance to that of optimism, is that internal elements and partisan disputes will triumph over the chances of progress in the peace process. This is a possibility in light of the previous experience throughout the 10 rounds of negotiations. Should this happen, it will be an indication of a real danger threatening the peace

21process, something not desired by any of the involved parties, especially the Arabs and the Palestinians.

This real decisive turning point in which the peace process is passing might either lead to its progress or deadlock, at best. On the basis of all evidence and indications, the ball now is in the Israeli court. As far as the future of that process is concerned, the responsibility falls on Israel.

Algeria

Special Courts Sentence 15 Islamists To Death

LD3008125493 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Excerpts] In Algeria two special courts yesterday sentenced 15 Islamic fundamentalists to death. The Algiers special court handed down 11 death sentences for attacks against state security and assassination attempts. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, the security forces gunned down three Islamic fundamentalist after a failed armed robbery in a post office in the west of Algeria.

Seven Executed for 1992 Airport Explosion

LD3108204693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Statement by the Ministry of Justice—read by announcer]

[Text] This morning, on 31 August 1993, after exhausting all constitutional and legal appeals, the execution of the death sentences issued by the Algiers special court on 26 May 1993 against the persons involved in the crime of the explosion in Houari Boumedienne international Airport took place. These persons were: Hocine Abderrahime, Hchaichi Rachid, Mensouri Meliani, Sousan Said, Imad Mohamed, Fenouh Abdelkrim, and Chikou Djemel.

The Justice Ministry statement adds: This appalling crime, which took place on the ill-fated date of 26 August 1992 and which claimed nine lives and seriously injured more than 100, left severe injuries on the souls of the citizens, which have not healed until today.

The Algerian people, in whose name these sentences were issued, were shaken by this appalling crime and are committed today, more than at any other time, to uprooting anyone who would dare to violate the unity of the country, public order, or the security of individuals, property, or institutions, so that the higher interests of the homeland and the authority of law remain above all.

Egypt

Mubarak, 'Arafat Address Press in Alexandria

NC3108133693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Following is a fuller version of an item published in the 31 August Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 9, column 2, headlined "Mubarak: Gaza-Jericho 'Good Start'"]

[Text] Alexandria, 31 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed the view that the Gaza-Jericho project is a good start that we should support, because it is the starting point toward reaching a final peaceful solution to the Palestinian cause that has persisted for over 40 years. If we expect to start a solution process and grab everything at once, this would be a very difficult process, he said.

Mubarak made his remarks at the beginning of a news conference with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat after their two hours of talks in Alexandria this morning.

The president added: Even with that announcement—the Gaza-Jericho plan—the issue will not be easy. It is a tiring process and all the powers should back the issue until we can obtain the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

At the beginning of the news conference, President Mubarak welcomed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, describing his visit to Egypt as something natural. It is known that we support the Arab cause and rights, Mubarak said.

President Mubarak added: We don't say we support giving up Palestinian territory. But we must assist because the negotiating process is difficult; we support the Palestinian issue.

Asked for his view about criticism leveled against him by some Palestinian leaders over the Gaza-Jericho issue, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said: I would like first to extend my thanks to the struggling brother President Husni Mubarak for the support the Egyptian president, government, and people are giving to the Palestinian people in their just struggle to regain their legitimate rights.

President 'Arafat said: We always come to Egypt because we regard it as our partner, not just a party with which we consult. It is a full partner in everything. There are clear Egyptian fingerprints on the agreement that was worked out. Egypt helped us to achieve it.

President 'Arafat said: We have democracy and we welcome any criticism, according to our democracy. We support the majority, which respects the opinion of the minority, and the minority abides by the opinion of the majority. A decision was adopted by the Palestine National Council [PNC] to work for a just and comprehensive peace, considering the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people. We also agreed on the basis of the Bush initiative of land-for-peace, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 336, and the achievement of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and security for everyone in the area. These are the principles on which we agreed at the Madrid conference. We are now at the beginning of the road to implementing these principles.

'Arafat added: I want to say something very important. The resolution considered those aspects pertaining to the Palestinian people's rights based on the Palestinian

peace initiative and the initiatives adopted by the PNC, which in turn were based on the Fes summit conference resolutions.

Asked by a correspondent when the PLO will move to Jericho to assume the leadership at home, 'Arafat said: First, the declaration must be signed. Then, it will take a month to have it approved. After that, implementation will begin immediately. Under the agreement, the Israeli forces are scheduled to withdraw completely from Gaza and Jericho within four months. An interim self- government rule will be implemented in the rest of the Palestinian territory. This is defined in the declaration of principles. He described the agreement as a declaration of principles and said the issue of Gaza and Jericho is appended to it.

When the same correspondent told 'Arafat that he did not answer her question on whether the PLO will move to Jericho to assume the leadership at home, 'Arafat responded: Deeds will speak for themselves.

Asked if they [not further specified] will endorse the PLO Charter, Palestinian President 'Arafat said there is no terror in our Charter. The PNC resolution in 1988, in which we announced a Palestinian initiative, and the PNC decision in 1991 to participate in the Madrid conference prove that we are way past the point you mention.

President Mubarak answered a question on his expectations following the Israeli Government's approval of the Gaza-Jericho plan. Mubarak said the question should have been addressed to President 'Arafat. He went on: I see tough negotiations ahead, especially as the declaration of principles has not been finalized. Still, I applaud the decision. Intricate and momentous issues always call for a daring and brave decision that paves the way for a solution, Mubarak added.

President Mubarak said: An example of this lies in what happened in our conflict with Israel. The decision made by late President Anwar al-Sadat, the initiative he launched, and the negotiations that followed gave us what we now have. An agreement was signed that peaceably restored our land. Now we try to resolve other issues. We are helping to resolve the Palestinian problem. We support Arab rights everywhere. We also try to develop our economy and build our country. All this is the fruit of peace, Mubarak stated.

Asked about the claim that the Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho will stamp out the intifadah, President 'Arafat said: You may say what you want, but what will happen will be a different matter. The Palestinian police will be responsible for Palestinian security, 'Arafat added.

Commenting on the telephone conversation between President Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Mubarak said: I, not brother 'Arafat, telephoned President al-Asad. We discussed relations between our countries and reviewed current issues. God willing, we will meet President al-Asad soon.

At the end of the news conference, President 'Arafat said: God willing, I will go on an Arab tour to brief the officials on what has been achieved. You may recall that there is complete coordination between me and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan concerning Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal, and PLO Information Department Chief Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh participated in the talks between Presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat.

'Arafat Departs Cairo for Khartoum

NC3108142193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1403 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo today for Khartoum at the beginning of an Arab tour to explain the Gaza-Jericho plan by which the Palestinians would obtain a type of autonomy.

Palestinian Ambassador to Egypt Sa'id Kamal accompanied President 'Arafat to the airport.

Mubarak Phones Saudi, Israeli Leaders on Talks

NC3108133793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Alexandria, 31 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today telephoned Saudi King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques. The two leaders exchanged views about a number of Arab and Islamic issues as well as topics of common concern.

President Mubarak also telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and discussed the recent developments concerning the peace talks.

Musa Travels to Israel To Deliver Mubarak Message

NC0109065193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Alexandria this morning on a brief working visit to Israel, during which he will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Musa will also hold talks with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on regional developments and ongoing efforts to boost the peace march along the Palestinian-Israeli and other tracks.

The Israeli ambassador in Cairo, who escorted the foreign minister, said the Israeli president would receive Musa during the visit, which, he said, comes within the context

of consultations to boost the peace process. The ambassador reiterated that Israel is interested in the effective role Egypt is playing to achieve Middle East peace.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives on Private Visit

NC3108161793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a private visit to Egypt.

Al-Baz, Transport Minister Leave for Libya 31 Aug

NC3108135793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Cairo for Tripoli via Tunisia this afternoon. The two officials will spend a few days in Libya to attend the celebrations of the al-Fatih revolution.

Libya

Contacts Continue To Settle Lockerbie Crisis

NC3108200693 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 27 Aug 93 p 9

[Report by the "Political Editor"]

[Excerpts] Egypt is still in touch with both the U.S. Administration and UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali in an effort to reach an acceptable settlement of the Lockerbie crisis, a settlement that may preserve for Libya its right to reject the extradition of Libyan suspects—a matter that clashes with both Libyan national sovereignty and laws—and at the same time allow for their trial outside Libya under appropriate safeguards and with guarantees of a sound trial that is free from any trace of political interference.

Libya recently raised the possibility that the Libyan suspects may stay at the headquarters of the Libyan mission to the United Nations as they undergo trial at any legal circuit in New York City, a move designed to circumvent a Libyan law banning the extradition of citizens.

Although the recent Libyan offer involves a certain concession to U.S. demands, the United States still insists on the extradition of the suspects for trial in the United Kingdom or the United States. Some U.S. circles still insist on Libya's full compliance with U.S. demands ahead of a deadline set by the UN Security Council in October, after which the international sanctions may be stiffened. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Lockerbie crisis has cast a long shadow on the Libyan domestic scene. Despite the revival in the role of the private sector as a result of more moderate domestic policies, the state has imposed stringent restrictions on transactions in hard currency in anticipation of any eventuality. The restrictions have limited the chances of Libyans to travel abroad and forced the private sector to depend on barter deals to finance imports. The restrictions pushed the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar in the black market to over two dinars, compared with the official rate of 0.33 dinars. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Reminisces About September Revolution

LD0109030093

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 2200 GMT on 31 August carries a live 68-minute address by leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to members of the 1 September Revolution first cell. Reception is good.

Video shows al-Qadhdhafi seated in a settee surrounded by various unidentified members of the audience. Al-Qadhdhafi reaffirms that the September revolution was a people's revolution, not a military coup. He recalls people who participated in the revolution, but were either martyred or remain anonymous even today. Al-Qadhdhafi then recollects his political life at school before joining the military academy and again notes the importance of remembering that the revolution was a people's revolution.

At this point in the informal address members of the audience remind al-Qadhdhafi of previous events and past personalities, all focusing on how they became supporters of the movement.

Al-Qadhdhafi recalls how he contemplated organizing commando attacks on British forces then present in Benghazi. He notes how he contacted other people, including a member of the Libyan Ba'th Party for that purpose. He recalls that the first aim of the revolution was to seize the radio station in order to inform the citizens of the revolution, and to direct the battle from there. Al-Qadhdhafi states that chances for success were slim were it not for the people's support.

Al-Qadhdhafi appeals to his audience to remain unknown soldiers of the revolution, to avoid deviating from the path of the revolution, and not to abandon the practice of self-denial. Al-Qadhdhafi says people throughout Libya trust the revolution because it consists of ordinary people. He concludes the informal address by inviting everyone to have their picture taken with him.

New Paper Features al-Qadhdhafi Interview

LD0109091093 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0823 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Sep (JANA)—The first edition of AL-SHAMS [The Sun], owned by the Press Public Institute, will be published today in the midst of the festivities marking the 24th anniversary of the Great al-Fatih Revolution. The paper introduces its first issue by an interview with the brother leader of the revolution in which he deals with a host of issues pertaining to local, pan-Arab, and international issues.

The paper will also publish weekly supplements on economy, politics, social issues, sports and culture.

Morocco

King Marks Prophet's Birthday, Cuts Prison Sentences

LD3108082893 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the prophet's birthday this year, our lord the imam, his majesty—may God continue to lend him support and glory—has given instructions to drop the remaining term of the jail sentences imposed on 898 inmates; to reduce the prison sentence imposed on 227 others; to drop the prison sentences but retain the fines imposed on 11 inmates, and to suspend both the prison sentences and fines imposed on eight others. [passage omitted]

Agreement Reached on Cooperation With Rwanda

LD2808131093 Rabat MAP in English 1217 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 29 [date as received] (MAP)—Blueprint accords covering various cooperation areas between Morocco and Rwanda were agreed upon during the visit Rwandan Planning Minister Augustin Ngirabatware paid to Rabat August 23-26. These accords will constitute the juridical implements for bilateral cooperation and enable the two sides work out cooperation actions and programs.

The Rwandan official and his Moroccan interlocutors convened to speed up the signing of a commercial accord, to promote industrial and commercial partnership relations and to prompt the two countries' economic operators consolidate their relations. Moroccan-Rwandan talks attached great importance to cooperation in matters of agriculture especially regarding struggle against deforestation, promotion of arable lands and protection of envronment.

The Rwandan delegation informed Moroccan officials on the precarious situation of the war-affected populations and on the efforts exerted by the Rwandan Government and the international community to cope with the situation. The Moroccan side voiced sympathy with the Rwandan people and hailed the government's action for the consolidation of peace, national reconciliation and for the country's reconstruction.

Sudan

U.S. Detention of Somalia-Bound Ship 'Piracy'

NC3108170693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1526 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Aug (MENA)—Ambassador 'Uthman Nafi', director of the political department of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, has strongly criticized the U.S. Navy's action in detaining a ship headed for Somalia with carrying a cargo of sugar, leading it to Djibouti and searching it.

In an interview today with representatives of the foreign and local press in Khartoum, he said that such an action is tantamount to piracy. He referred to a similar action against a Chinese ship that was forced to enter a Saudi port to be searched.

Answering a question about the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Nafi' said that his country supports whatever choice the Palestinians make, because they are the ones involved in this issue. He said that Sudan is following with interest all reports about this agreement, noting that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will make a tour of some countries, including Sudan, to explain the Palestinian issue. He said he hoped the Palestinians would achieve an agreement that guarantees their unity and legitimate rights.

Ambassador Nafi' denied U.S. charges that Sudan is supplying weapons to the forces of General Mohamed Farah Aidid.

The Sudanese official criticized the U.S. authorities' treatment of the Sudanese detainees who are being held in New York on charges of involvement in the attempt to blow up the World Trade Center.

Asked about the Kuwaiti conditions for restoring normal relations with Sudan, Nafi' said that Sudan has not received officially or through a third party any information on this issue. He called for by-passing the situation, looking to the future, and achieving Arab reconciliation.

The Sudanese official denied the existence of any problem on the Ethiopian border. He said that the local authorities in the two countries are able to resolve any problem that might arise.

Khalifah Details Agenda for Visit to Libya

LD3108132993 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Aug 93

[Text] Muhammad Al-Amin Khalifah, chairman of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] leaves for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah tomorrow at the head of a TNA delegation. Mr. Khalifah told the press that the

visit is being paid in the context of relations between the two fraternal states and the close relations between the Sudanese and Libyan parliaments. Mr. Khalifah went on to say that during the visit he will discuss the international circumstances confronting the Arab and Islamic nation, stressing the need for serious efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere, to overcome differences, and to unite the nation in one voice so as to foil the challenges being directed against the nation.

Earlier today, Mr. Khalifah received the Libyan charge d'affaires in Khartoum, with whom he discussed the preparations for the visit of the assembly's delegation to the Jamahiriyah, being made at the invitation of Zinadi Muhammad Zinadi, secretary general of the General People's Congress, to attend the commemoration of the 1 September revolution.

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Meets With Malian Counterpart

LD3108180593 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya held talks this morning with Alhousseini Toure, Malian minister of foreign affairs and African integration, who is currently paying a working visit to Tunisia.

In a statement after the meeting, which was also attended by Sadek Fayala, secretary of state for African affairs, and the Malian charge d'affaires, the Malian foreign minister pointed out that he and Habib Ben Yahya reviewed political and economic issues of mutual interest. He added that the talks enabled the two sides to discuss bilateral cooperation in the economic field within the context of the Tunisian-Malian joint committee and also to conduct political consultations in light of the meetings which are to be held under the auspices of various international organizations.

Kuwait

GCC Citizens Permitted Entry With Identity Cards

LD3108212093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1910 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Kuwait, 31 Aug (KUNA)—The National Assembly today approved the entry into Kuwait of sons of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] with the use of their countries' official identity cards.

Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir welcomed the entry into Kuwait of sons of the GCC by means of identity cards and pointed out that the government had agreed to the same proposal in 1982 in a National Assembly session at that time.

A number of the Assembly members consider the decision to be a thank-you message from the Kuwaiti people to the sons of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman, the governments and peoples of which sided with Kuwait in the occupation ordeal.

Correction—Iraqi Opposition Leader on Deserters

LD3108205693

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Iraqi Opposition Leader Hails Envoy's Defections," published in the 30 August Near East South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 35: Column one, paragraph one, first sentence make read: [Text] [dateline indistinct]—Ahmad...(changing processing indicator) Column one, paragraph three, last sentence to paragraph four, first sentence make read: ...well as Kurds. He added that the congress receives Iraqi soldiers and officers deserting the Army everyday because "the conditions in the Iraqi Army are unbearable in terms of the political pressure and moral frustration, as they feel that Iraq's Army has become servile." Al-Shalabi went on to say that the congress is capable of mobilizing tens of thousands "but that the potential is limited, except that we are preparing the grounds to polarize the largest possible number from the Iraqi Army." [new paragraph]

Regarding the defection...(adding omitted passage)

Saudi Arabia

GCC Member States Conduct Naval Exercise in Gulf

LD0109131493 Riyadh SPA in English 1233 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] The Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia, Sept 1, SPA—Naval fleets of member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have conducted an exercise codenamed "Solidarity-3," in the Saudi eastern coast. The 12-day exercise, which ended six days ago, was the third in a series. The second exercise was conducted in Oman. Saudi naval forces made preparations in advance through a working team from the eastern fleet's leadership. Jet fighters also took part in the exercise, which was conducted in line with decisions of the GCC defence ministers.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Urges Inter-Arab Tolerance, Solidarity

JN2908194893 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 26 Aug 93 p 17

[Text] Alexandria, United Arab Emirates News Agency, WAM—His Highness President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has expressed the hope that Arabs will iron out their differences in a tolerant and brotherly spirit. Tolerance, he emphasized, is a must if true, sincere, and effective Arab solidarity is to be rebuilt on new foundations.

His highness said: "It is all-important that there be a consensus on the need for a united stand. Arab leaders will have to join hands and reach out to each other if they care for the good and dignity of the Arab nation. Arab leaders must also have a genuine faith that if the interests of a given Arab state are served, then the overall interests of the Arab nation stand to gain. This is the kind of brotherhood in which we believe, especially in light of the lessons we have learned from the Gulf war."

In remarks to Egyptian television aired yesterday evening, his highness the president added: "It takes time and effort and mutual contacts with our brother Arab leaders to arrive at Arab reconciliation. We hope this will be realized soon. My talks with my brother President Mubarak focused on joint action in the interest of rallying the Arabs together."

His highness hoped that his call for tolerance and leaving the past behind will find an echo in the Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] member states. God willing, he added, Arab leaders will pursue mutual support and forbearance toward each other. Were it not for a commitment among fellow GCC leaders, I would have long ago made a decision to let bygones be bygones. But, Shaykh Zayid added, we are members of the Arab League and the GCC, and so I decided it was not right that I move out of step with the other partners. God willing, all of us in the Gulf will be tolerant and united, and put the past behind us, because none of us are infallible.

Therefore, reconciliation and forgiveness are duties among brothers and friends. We hope that we will be united by a meeting of forgiveness and reconciliation for the sake of the unity of the Arab stand, which we lack nowadays and greatly need. This is especially so because we, as Arabs, should believe that we live in one city that represents the entire Arab nation despite the distances between our countries. Indeed, if prosperity prevails in one Arab country, then this reflects on its sisters and if

any small or large country faces any harm, then this also reflects on everyone. This is what should exist and this is the new reality that should govern inter-Arab relations so that the peoples will be reassured about their stability and future.

His highness the president called on the fraternal Arab states to maintain brotherly ties. He also called on them not to act aggressively against each other or covet each other's resources because prosperity should prevail everywhere and every resource in every small or large state is a resource and aid for whoever needs it among our brothers. It is a loss for the powerful to act against the weak because the prosperity of any country is there for its sister. We are all one nation, and we should maintain our nation's glory, stability, and the happiness of its people. This is what we should believe in after our belief in God first. It is not in the Arab nation's interest to remain in its current weak state, making it easy for those self-servers who take advantage of the state of Arab fragmentation and interfere in our affairs.

In his statement, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan emphasized that Egypt's power is a power and support for the Arab nation. His highness said: I congratulate the Egyptian people for the wise leadership of president Husni Mubarak—leadership that is concerned about the interest of the homeland and the citizen. I wish President Mubarak success after his election for another term of office in serving the Egyptian people who deserve everything good. God willing, there will be nothing but good and solidarity between him and his people because Egypt's stability is for the interest, good, pride, and glory of the Arab nation.

The accomplishments we witnessed in Egypt under President Mubarak's leadership surpass all that has preceded it. I am convinced of this after what I saw and became reassured of his excellency's concern about his homeland and citizens. I hope that the brother Arab leaders will follow President Mubarak's steps in his care for his people.

UN Camera 'Wrecked' by Explosion at Test Site

JN3108140993 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] An explosion in an Iraqi missile tests site has wrecked a United Nations monitoring camera, but caused no casualties.

United Nations missile experts were supervising the Iraqi experiment at the time. There were no injuries in the blast, but one of the cameras disappeared.

Three UN experts arrived in Baghdad on Wednesday [25 August] to observe the Iraqi tests.

The Surveillance cameras are switched off pending the outcome of Iraqi-UN talks on monitoring Iraq's armament program under Gulf war cease-fire terms.

'Aziz Leaves for Geneva Conference; To Meet UN Chief

JN3108143793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has left Amman for Geneva to take part in the International Conference of the Red CrossX in response to an invitation from Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

An INA correspondent in Amman said the deputy prime minister will meet in Geneva with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who will be attending the conference. The meeting is expected to address Iraq-UN relations.

Ba'th Official Meets Fatah's Nasr Yusuf

JN3108190193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has reiterated Iraq's support for the Palestinian people's struggle and valiant intifadah against the Zionist enemy. He also stressed the concern of the party and revolution, under the leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn, to support Palestinian national unity and struggle to achieve their national objectives.

During a meeting with Nasr Yusuf, member of Fatah Central Committee, the comrade member of the Iraq Command warned of open U.S.-Zionist plotting against the Palestinian cause, aiming at destroying the valiant Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories and the inalienable historic rights of the Palestinian people.

Nasr Yusuf praised the stand of the people of great Iraq in resisting evil forces during the 30-state aggression and facing the repercussions of the unjust embargo. He also voiced admiration for the achievements made by the stalwart Iraqis, led by President Saddam Husayn, in their reconstruction drive.

The meeting was attended by 'Azzam al-Ahmad, ambassador of the State of Palestine to Iraq, and the comrade chief of the Office of Arab Liberation Movements at the Revolution Command Council.

Saddam Receives Cable From Jordan's King Husayn

JN3108151993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a congratulatory cable from his brother His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan on the anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

The cable reads: I am happy to seize the anniversary of the Prophet's birthday to send to your excellency, in my name and on behalf of the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the best congratulations and wishes, praying Almighty God to recur this blessed anniversary while your excellency is enjoying good health, your sisterly country is enjoying progress and prosperity, and our Arab and Islamic nation is enjoying prosperity and welfare.

Saddam Cables Libya's al-Qadhdhafi on National Day

JN0109113893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Sep 93

["Text" of cable of congratulations from President Saddam Husayn to Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, on Libya's National Day—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution: On the national day of the fraternal Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, it pleases us to extend to you, on behalf of Iraq and in my name, our warm congratulations. We wish you continued good health and happiness, and the fraternal Libyan Arab people further progress and prosperity as well as victory over their enemies. As for the fraternal ties between our two countries, we wish them continued enhancement and entrenchment in the interest of our two fraternal peoples, and the pride and steadfastness of our glorious Arab nation.

May God's peace be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother Saddam Husayn

French Group Delivers 60 Tonnes of Medicine, Equipment

JN3008161293 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 30 Aug 93

[All names as received]

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 30, INA—A French delegation has recently brought 60 tonnes of medicines and medical equipment to Iraq. A similar shipment was brought by the delegation last year.

The five-member delegation comprises Monder Mzoughi and Sadek Ben Amran of the French-Iraqi Solidarity Organization, Kessi Mougran and Jamal Hamani of Lyon YOuth Organisation, and Elish Jezrawi, chairman of Save the Iraqi children.

In an interview with the BAGHDAD OBSERVER, Mr. Elish Jezrawi, who speaks Arabic, translated the opinion and feeling of his colleagues.

Members of the delegation are to prepare a video film documenting daily life in Iraq under the blockade. The one-hour film is to be distributed in France.

"We will try to coordinate with other youth organizations in France to exercise pressure for lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq," one of the members promised and the others agreed.

They criticised the stand of the French Government in backing the imposition of the UN sanctions on Iraq.

"How come that France, a country that calls for protecting human rights, contributes in depriving people of their food and medicine." One of the members said while another member explained that the French policy is a subservient one to the U.S. Administration which aims at weakening Iraq.

Mr. Jezrawi conveyed the opinion of his colleague describing the policy of imposing sanctions for attaining political goals as a barbarian crime against humanity.

As for the French public opinion, Mr. Jezrawi said that France had good relations with Arab countries including Iraq and most of the French people were against the military interference asking: Why should we interfere for something called Kuwait while we know that Americans are going to control the petrol resources in the Gulf?

The former French minister of defence has resigned in protest against the events. Many French people now say that he was right. And they wonder why the blockade is still imposed on Iraqis, said Mr. Mouqran adding that the Western misleading media says that Iraq did not implement the Security Council resolutions neglecting the fact that there are other countries which did not execute the UN resolutions and yet they did not submit to sanctions.

Members of the delegation wish for better relations between France and Iraq, "we hope that the two countries would restore their old good ties on all levels," said Mr. Hamani urging youth organizations of the two countries to play an effective role in this field.

The delegation visited some Iraqi hospitals and the Baby Milk Plant in Baghdad, "we will try to inform the French humanitarian organizations of the human crime committed against the people of Iraq." Mr. Jezrawi translated the words of his colleagues.

They added that the Iraqi hospitals suffer from acute shortages of medicine. "We know that the humanitarian aid meets no more than five per cent of Iraq's real need. But we are doing our utmost and we feel it is our duty to do so," said one of the members adding that lifting the blockade is the best solution.

As for the reconstruction drive launched in Iraq, the French members said that the Iraqis have managed to rebuild what has been destroyed and proved that they can rely on their self potentials.

"It is a good model that should be followed by other Arab countries," a member of the delegation concluded.

Airspace 'Violations' Reported to Arab League

JN3108152393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 sep 93

[Text] Iraq has informed the Arab League that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers have continued to provide facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace.

In a letter addressed yesterday to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that these aircraft violated Iraqi airspace on 26 and 27 August, flying from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They conducted 160 hostile air sorties, the letter added.

The Iraqi delegate attached to his letter a list detailing these violations and the serious threat they pose to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

Sorties Flown 28-29 Aug

JN0109114093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Iraq has lodged a protest with the Arab League over the continued facilities extended by the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers to U.S., British, and French aircraft in order to violate Iraqi airspace.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League indicated that these aircraft continued on 28-29 August to violate Iraqi airspace, flying from air bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. They carried out 50 hostile air sorties on these dates. The letter said these violations seriously jeopardize Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

The Iraqi delegate asked for the letter to be circulated among the Arab League members. A list detailing these violations was attached to the letter.

Rebel Radio Notes 'Arrest Campaign', Army Discontent

JN0109 01593 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Informed press sources in Baghdad said last week that tyrant Saddam had transferred 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin to the Popular Organizations after serving as the tyrant's press adviser. They attributed this to Muhsin's excessive interference in the affairs of the Information Ministry and Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi's work. Saddamist newspapers were instructed not to publish any article for 'Abd-al-Jabbar Muhsin unless authorized by the Information Ministry.

Recent reports said the tyrant's security organs unleashed a large-scale arrest campaign against those persons close to the criminal regime and the centers of power. The reports said Majid Adham, a close friend of criminal Barzan al-Tikriti, and Sadr Mawlud Mukhlis and 'Ali Jasim Mukhlis, relatives of Hardan al-Tikriti, who was assassinated by the Kuwaiti [as heard] tyrant's intelligence service in the early eighties, were arrested. Tu'mah al-Juburi, a former intelligence officer and scores of high-ranking officers were also arrested.

It is noteworthy that a state of intense grumbling and discontent is overwhelming army ranks due to the exacerbating economic situation. This is a result of the regime's criminal measures against all the sons of our Iraqi people.

Regime Military Vehicle Said Ambushed; 6 Killed

JN0109092993 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Pursuant to its heroic confrontation of the criminal Saddamist remnants' attacks on our Muslim people, a few days ago a group affiliated with the Islamic revolution mujahidin ambushed a (Hayfa)-type military vehicle on the road to the Abu Layla region in al-'Amarah Governorate. The vehicle was destroyed. One Saddamist officer holding a captain's rank and another five mercenaries were killed. Our mujahidin captured two people misled by criminal Saddam, the enemy of God and mankind. One of them was seriously injured. For humanitarian reasons dictated by our noble Islamic religion, our mujahidin released them after they were interrogated. They were liberated from enslavement to the despot and his reckless, tyrannical regime.

Further on Saddam Address to Student Delegation

JN3108165693

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic at 1030 GMT on 31 August carries an approximately 102-minute recording of a meeting Iraqi President Saddam Husayn held with the president and members of the National Union of Iraqi Students on 30 August in Baghdad.

The recording starts with Saddam Husayn welcoming the Iraqi Students Union delegation, followed by an unidentified speaker, presumably the Students Union President Fahd Salim al-Shakrah, who thanks the president for the attention he is paying to students. The speaker also thanks Saddam for his recent orders to renovate student residence halls and enlarge the student body of Iraqi universities and vocational training centers. The speaker pledges that students will remain loyal to Saddam's leadership.

Saddam Husayn thanks the speaker and asks the attendees to brief him on the conditions in student residence halls, the meals given to students, and the university and college uniforms. An unidentified speaker tells the president that certain student residence halls need renovation and modernization, especially those that were not originally designed to serve as residence halls.

Saddam asks if special attention is being paid to cleanliness and the availability of bathrooms in student halls. An unidentified speaker says certain student halls were originally designed as government offices or for other purposes, and these need modifications to provides the services needed for students, such as libraries, meeting halls, and sufficient bathrooms.

Saddam says university and college students must set an example in their cleanliness and social behavior. Students must be provided with sufficient bathrooms and water and soap, he says. Saddam adds that he wants the students' residence halls to be used as centers for teaching good manners and polite social behavior. Students, Saddam Husayn says, must not wander around the corridors of their residence halls in pajamas or barefooted. They can dress however they wish when they are in the privacy of their rooms, but when in a group, they must observe certain manners, he adds.

Saddam continues to address students on how to behave inside and outside the school, in dormitories and dining rooms, and on how to respect the privacy, feelings, and rights of others. For example, he says, radios should be tuned low so as not to disturb others. He also notes how students should treat one another as brothers, because they live as one family, despite the fact that they may have different backgrounds and come from different locations.

Those addressing Saddam speak about the implementation of a standardized school and university uniform, and its pros and cons; how to secure the smooth transfer of students from one stage to another, from elementary to preparatory, secondary and then to university courses. They also speak to him about a new university curriculum to be implemented next year and how this new system should be streamlined, noting that it contains some contradictions and is facing some opposition by universities, and saying that this is usually the case when new reforms are introduced. One of the speakers says "what we hope is that the Ministry of Higher Education, or the competent quarters will study these contradictions

and try to carry out some amendments so that they may be in line with the new system if there is an intention to implement it next year in one form or another."

Saddam resumes his talk about educational affairs, the situation in schools, and incentives and punitive measures, giving examples of how these measures are being applied in the Armed Forces. He says: "Some say that the plan, for example, is drawn up or proposed by the army staff, the commander endorses it, and then the plan becomes the leader's. The higher command honors an army commander for the success of his plan or management of the battle. Some staff officers may ask why the commander is distinguished from us as an army staff." He adds that in case of failure, the commander bears "the responsibility of his decision." He says that every leader should be responsible for his decisions and that national responsibility is wider than this technical definition of responsibility. He calls for forming a committee to study educational issues and proposals.

Saddam then urges students to seek the advice of their teachers, who, he says, have more experience than students. He then relates a story about how the Revolution Command Council tried in 1969 to sell an army camp to citizens for housing purposes in order to raise money and how the majority rejected the proposal.

Saddam then discusses the student-teacher relationship, arguing that one should not think that all his views are one hundred percent correct, and that he should know that he is part of society. He adds that dialogue creates leading figures, saying that students and teachers should respect the views of each other. The student should listen attentively to what the teacher says and accept other viewpoints with an open mind. The teacher should also be willing to listen to the student.

An unidentified speaker then addresses Saddam, telling him that the National Union of Iraqi Students is different from other professional and popular organizations in Iraq in that it has branches abroad. He asserts that these branches have functioned as ambassadors for Iraq through coordination with other youth, humanitarian, and educational institutes during the "aggression."

Saddam interrupts the speaker by saying that some students have made great sacrifices, losing their studies but maintaining their national stand.

The same unidentified speaker interrupts Saddam, saying that Iraqi students abroad are now facing the problem of renewing their passports, telling him that the law says that every student who renews his passports abroad should pay $150. Iraqi students, the official continues, have not received any money so far because Iraqi funds abroad are frozen, due to the circumstances of the blockade. The speaker asks Saddam to issue a decree exempting students from this $150 fee. Saddam hesitates and inquires whether students renew their passports to stay abroad longer or whether they really need to pursue their studies, arguing that a student may say that he is studying and stay abroad for 20 years.

Another unidentified speaker says the decision to collect the fee from students abroad was made so that students abroad would always possess a valid passport, regardless of their studies. He notes the difficult economic situation.

A third unidentified official speaks about how Iraqis abroad take pride in Saddam and Iraq, saying people abroad respect Iraqis a great deal and always ask them to relay greetings to Saddam Husayn.

Commenting on remarks by an unidentified speaker, who cites Kurds from northern Iraq as saying that they want a solution to the Kurdistan issue from President Saddam Husayn, Saddam says that the leadership should have confidence in itself only if it is just and fair. He adds: "Before talking about the leadership's confidence in itself, which is one of the traits of the leadership, we can say that the leadership should trust itself only if it is just, after relying on God. We trust our people in al-Sulaymaniyah, Dhi Qar, Babil, or Salah-al-Din. It is natural that what is more important is our belief that Almighty God will relieve our people of any trouble facing them in Dahuk, al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, or elsewhere in Iraq. We have not forgotten the position of every honorable and nationalist Kurd. We remember the days when we lived as one family and when the foreigner dared not tread on the soil of Iraq.

"During their presence, the Americans, the British, or any other foreigner can have a negative influence on some people who are weak in terms of psychology, thought, and faith. Their presence may last one, two, or three years, but the Iraqi's history is not just three years long. The Iraqi's history is thousands of years old. This history was not made by the Arabs alone, the Kurds alone, the Muslims alone, the Christians alone, the Sunnis alone, the Shiites alone, or the Yazidis alone, but by the collective position, the collective cohesion, and the collective interaction of all the Iraqis. A history of 7,000 years of civilization, more or less, cannot be neutralized by the foreigners' presence and by the usurpers of a certain period. It is impossible. Almighty God wanted, by His great wisdom, to make the Iraqis experience an ordeal to make them able to confront any future problem with firmness and stability and keep the foreigners outside Iraq."

Saddam Husayn continues: "God willing, pride will be an inevitable outcome of your jihad, the jihad of Iraqis, whether they are Arabs or Kurds. As for the Kurds of our people, when saying that Saddam Husayn should not forget his duties toward his people, everyone of them should also realize that they have duties toward themselves and toward their homeland. The two go together. When the two are together, the leadership and the people in the governorates outside the Autonomous Region do not forget their duties toward the Autonomous Region. The people in the Autonomous Region also do not forget their duties toward themselves and toward their fellow citizens in Iraq. Anyone who isolates himself in the environment of the foreigner will become a stranger and will leave, because he does not fit anywhere. For anyone

who wants to be within the fold of the homeland, even after he has erred, the homeland is always hospitable to accommodate those people. You know that when the leadership says something, it means it. The difficult circumstances we experienced in the south and the center of Iraq—represented in the injustice of deviators—were a test for us. If one chooses the path of the homeland, even after deviation, the homeland's gateway is always open. When we said this, we did not say anything to the contrary or act differently. Even the deviators in the autonomous region, if they choose the homeland, the door of the homeland is wide open, and the homeland is affectionate like a mother or father. The role of the leadership is that it has this trait to win the satisfaction of God and the people. So convey my greetings to them. Whenever you see a Kurd, pass my regards to him. We have not forgotten. We remember every mountain, every valley, and most important, we remember every individual in Kurdistan, whether in al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, or Dahuk. We do not think that the great, bright ceremonies with which our people used to receive us were deceptive. This is impossible. They were genuine, but the situation imposed now is what made the people the way they are. After relying on God, this situation can be ended, when the people of Iraq in all governorates, without any exception, remember their duties toward themselves, including everyone in al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, Dhi Qar, al-Basrah, al-Najaf. When the person who has treason in his mind or his conscience sees the people rejecting treason and forcefully expressing their nationalism, then the traitor will leave Iraq, because the traitor does not regard Iraq as his country. His country is a foreign one. Take a very simple example. Do the traitors have possessions in Iraq or do they have possessions elsewhere? Also think of the son of the homeland. If he has a cow, horse, land, it is all inside Iraq. If he has a sum of money, it is either at home or in the bank. This is the simplest measure, which, I think, is not subject to disagreement. There are others known by name to the Iraqi people. Those people have possessions, but they do not have the same limited possessions that they hold in Iraq. They deposit their funds abroad. They are using Iraq as a milking cow. May they be defeated and may their plans be frustrated. They think of Iraq only as a place to get money and then deposit it abroad. They do not regard Iraq as their homeland. The homeland is the place where you live and die, where you possess or live without possessions. When you do not have anything, it is your homeland, and when you possess anything, you put it in the service of the homeland and the people. This is the homeland, and these are the responsibilities toward the people. Pass my regards to them."

Recording concludes with an unidentified woman delivering a poem in praise of Saddam Husayn.

Peres on Recognizing PLO, Peace 'Breakthrough'

TA3108194693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Sukenik] Mr. Peres, did you really reach an understanding with the PLO leadership, according to which, after the signature of the agreements in Washington—tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, or in the next few days—the PLO will unequivocally state it is renouncing the path of terrorism against Israel, and consequently the intifadah, as well?

[Peres] According to all of the understandings, once the agreement is signed, the organization will announce an end to acts of terrorism. Everybody is asking whether we are willing to recognize the PLO. My answer is that if the PLO recognizes reality and stops being what it was in the past, we will have no problems with it.

[Sukenik] Is this the beginning of a major breakthrough toward a comprehensive peace in the Middle East?

[Peres] Undoubtedly. The war broke out because of the Palestinian issue, and now, on the verge of peace, there is also a breakthrough in the opposite direction.

[Sukenik] Is it possible to understand that the peace negotiations—and not only with the Palestinians—are continuing at various places at the present time?

[Peres] Yes. There are ongoing contacts meant to broaden the circle and to extinguish the minor and major fires that have started over the years and to turn the entire picture into one in which there are no thorns, fires, or shots.

U.S. Help Sought in Ties With Arab States

TA0109051093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Israel is making an effort to establish diplomatic relations with Arab countries such as Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Kuwait, Oman, and the Emirate states of the Gulf. Israel has asked the United States to help. It was one of the issues discussed in last week's secret meeting between Foreign Minister Peres and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Mubarak, Rabin Discuss Details of PLO Accord

TA3108142093 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak talked by phone with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin about an hour ago. Mubarak praised Rabin for the agreement of principles reached with the Palestinians and wished him luck for the continuation of the political process. The prime minister's bureau told our correspondent Netan'el Semrik that in the conversation, which lasted several minutes, the two discussed various details of the agreement of principles. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is due to arrive here tomorrow.

Egypt's Musa Arrives for Talks With Counterpart

TA0109092293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0725 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Joint news conference by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at Ben-Gurion Airport—live in English]

[Text] [Peres] I would like to welcome the foreign minister of Egypt, 'Amr Musa, a dear friend, a good colleague, and a full participant in the peace process. I would like to say that Egypt and Israel have cooperated completely, fully, and positively in enabling to reach this historic understanding [words indistinct]. We feel that our job is not yet concluded, and we would like to go ahead and make the peace comprehensive, on one hand, and make the Middle East a civilized region that can cooperate economically, politically, and militarily for the well-being, safety, and security of all people. We feel that our relations with Egypt are complete, honest, friendly, promising, and the first experience of peace between the largest Arab country and the State of Israel. These relations are emerging more and more not just as a historic precedent, but as a real success. The prime minister, myself, and surely the president are looking forward to meeting the foreign minister of Egypt and ensuring that this meeting, as all the previous meetings, will be positive and cordial.

[Musa] Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Prime Minister and Mr. Foreign Minister of Israel for your words of welcome. I am here at a very important juncture of developments in the peace process. We are hopeful. We are optimistic. We believe that we have covered already an important portion of our march towards a comprehensive peace in the area. The step that is about to be taken is a very important step towards that goal. We will continue to work with Israel, with the Palestinians, with the other parties to the peace process, with the cosponsors of the Madrid conference, with all the participants in order to reach a settlement, a comprehensive settlement, as soon as possible. Again, we are optimistic, but we have a lot of work to do. The phase we are going through is very crucial. But with good work, concentration, cooperation, with the help of God, we are going to establish a just peace in this region. Thank you.

[Peres] The foreign minister has agreed to answer some questions. So if you have any, please do.

[Unidentified correspondent] Foreign Minister, could you tell us please what exactly is your goal in this visit to Israel, except for briefing, debriefing, and acquiring knowledge of the agreement? Do you hope to achieve anything concrete?

[Musa] As I said, peace in the region deserves all our efforts and continued consultations, cooperation, briefing and debriefing. At the same time, Egypt is very much at the heart of the ongoing process. Not only on the Palestinian-Israeli track, but other tracks, as well. But the Palestinian-Israeli track is witnessing a very important development. It is very important for us, as it is important for Israel, as it is important for the Palestinians, and indeed for everybody else, to probe all the possibilities, and also to work in order for that step to be a full success.

[Correspondent] So you are here to negotiate something? Are you to probe the possibilities? Are you here to negotiate?

[Musa] No. What are we going to negotiate? We have to consult, and if it is necessary for us to discuss a certain specific issue, we are going to do so.

Delivers Message to Rabin

TA0109104693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] Egypt is very interested in staying in the picture and continuing to offer its good services to Israel and to the Palestinians. For its part, Israel has a very clear interest to emphasize Egypt's unique position. It should be noted that Israel already has a long-standing peace agreement with Egypt. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin earlier this morning, and he is now having a working lunch with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Later, they will perhaps hold a joint news conference. At any rate, during Foreign Minister Musa's private meeting with Prime Minister Rabin, the latter presented what is described as Israel's outline of the document of principles that was agreed upon between Israel and the Palestinians. Musa, for his part, stressed Egypt's positions on this outline. One must admit that the two men appeared optimistic.

[Begin recording] [Musa, in English] I informed him of our positions in the discussions that are taking place concerning the new development. I conveyed to him a message from President Mubarak. [end recording]

Musa spoke in quite optimistic terms. He spoke of a promising future. He presented Egypt's positions on the outline presented by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. I asked him whether he had brought any special message from Yasir 'Arafat for the prime minister or Shim'on Peres. Musa replied in the negative, but said that the prime minister was now well aware of 'Arafat's positions. It should be noted that 'Arafat met both Mubarak and 'Amr Musa yesterday in Egypt. Foreign Minister Musa delivered a message from President Mubarak, who spoke with Rabin over the phone yesterday and congratulated him on the document of principles formulated with the Palestinians.

In approximately 45 minutes, a joint news conference is slated for Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa.

Musa, Peres on Egypt's Role in Talks

TA0109124093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1108 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Joint news conference by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres after their meeting, at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem—live, in English; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Peres] ...reached between Egypt and Israel, particularly on the economy. Then again, may I say that Egypt was fully in the picture about the negotiations both in Washington and Oslo, and played a very important role whenever it was possible for Egypt to serve as a bridge builder. I think also that the Egyptians were in full coordination with the United States and Israel, and the Palestinians, and I think that each of the parties was aware that Egypt is in that position and can be of great service. I think today we tried to go over the last ditch of negotiations between the Palestinians and ourselves. And while looking at every possible detail, we remain very optimistic that these negotiations can be concluded in a rather short while provided none of us will make unnecessary mistakes and none of us will return to the old suspicions and prejudices, and all of us will look ahead with trust and hope, as we should. Again, a hearty welcome to a friend and a colleague, 'Amr Musa [words indistinct].

[Musa] Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. It is important for all of us now to follow closely and do whatever we can to help to consolidate this very important step that is being undertaken. We in Egypt—President Mubarak, the Government of Egypt, and the people of Egypt—are interested in and working for reaching a comprehensive settlement that would lead to a new era in the region, an era marked with peace, cooperation, and development. This requires a just settlement on all tracks in accordance with the basics of the peace process. The initiative underway is a very important one as a step towards that goal. We do support it, we believe that it is the right step in the right direction, and in this we are ready to do everything we can in order to make a success out of it. I appreciate very much the role played by Foreign Minister Peres, I appreciate very much the efforts that have been deployed in order for both parties to reach what they have reached. It remains a joint venture between Israelis and Palestinians, and for us. Our role is to help whenever that help is needed within the parameters of what I have outlined. That is, we have to reach a comprehensive settlement on the Syrian-Israeli track, Lebanese track, Jordanian-Israeli track, Palestinian-Israeli track. But this Palestinian- Israeli step is an important one to give a push to the process that needed, absolutely needed, a success story. We hope that

this will prove to be a very important success story that would lead to the consolidation of the process we are all involved in. Thank you.

Beilin on Relations With Palestinian Leadership

TA0109102393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Gay Zohar and Gilat Levi on 1 September—recorded]

[Text] [Beilin] I think we are in the midst of a very important stage in our history. I am certain that this moment will be remembered for many years. I think it is really a change or the opening of a new chapter. It has been clear that from this moment on, we will have a bit of a problem with the Palestinian delegation because it was not involved in the dealings and will have some difficulty accepting the understandings that were reached. However, I think these difficulties will soon be over. I see absolutely no chance of this agreement not being signed.

[Levi] So you do not believe that the frustration felt by the members of the Palestinian delegation could prevent the agreement from being signed? Could it perhaps lead to changes in the text of the agreement?

[Beilin] The agreement will be signed with absolutely no changes. The fact that the delegates or their associates, like Hanan 'Ashrawi, make inaccurate statements about the agreement, will not change the agreement itself.

[Zohar] Where do the contacts currently stand with regard to the declaration we are expecting from the PLO? Is it still a question of their content, or is it more a question of where the statement will be issued and by which official?

[Beilin] I'd rather not say this, but right now I am convinced that the ball is in the Palestinian court. Today, the Palestinian national movement has an unprecedented opportunity and challenge to alter its fundamental stand toward recognizing Israel and put a real halt to terrorism, not just issue declarations. If it changes the relevant clauses in the Palestinian Covenant, there is more than a good chance that Israel will be prepared to launch formal negotiations with that organization.

[Zohar] Yes, but all this is at the level of opening positions at the start of negotiations. Replying to a direct question in Egypt yesterday, Yasir 'Arafat said that the PLO had twice decided to change the Palestinian Covenant, which now states that the armed struggle against Israel is over.

[Beilin] With all due respect, we will not be satisfied with a bevy of waffling historical statements. We will insist on an unequivocal decision and declaration in these three fields at least. If this happens, I assume that there could be a significant change in relations between the Palestinian and the Jewish national movements. If this does not happen and they merely settle for various ideas relating to their previous statements, then the change will not come.

[Levi] Is Israel waiting for PLO recognition before signing the document of principles? Is this a precondition?

[Beilin] No, there is no connection between the two things. I can definitely see a situation in which the document of understandings is signed between the two delegations in Washington, without any connection to the PLO's declaration or the issue of recognition.

[Zohar] Our last question pertains to the additional tracks in Washington, which are part of the comprehensive process. Will Israel pay any price on the other tracks for making such surprising progress with the Palestinians? For example, with Syria? What about the pressure King Husayn is putting on the delegation?

[Beilin] I am convinced that the opposite is true. In other words, following the breakthrough on the Palestinian track, we will pay a lower price in making progress on the other tracks. It is true that some of the representatives from the other tracks did not seem very happy, perhaps this is because they were kept in the dark about the process. Regardless, the very fact that progress was made on one channel, will lead to far more rapid progress on all the other tracks. Just as none of the parties wanted to be the first to make progress, none of them want to lag behind.

[Zohar] Thank you, Deputy Minister Beilin.

Rubinstein on 'Reservations' Toward Accord

TA3108135393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Aug 93 p A2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein yesterday presented Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with a letter expressing significant personal reservations about the agreement of principles worked out between Israel and the PLO. In his letter, Rubinstein notes that he was personally hurt both because he was not let in on the secret contacts between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO leaders and because he was asked to present certain positions in the negotiations in Washington while Peres had already conceded those demands in his talks.

Rubinstein will participate in the cabinet meeting debating the state budget this morning and will then announce his final decision on whether he is resigning. Prime Minister Rabin yesterday reiterated his request to Rubinstein not to resign, as did other ministers in the cabinet session.

In his letter, Rubinstein criticizes the fact that there is no mention of Jordan in the document of principles, contrary to the traditional Israeli position. Rubinstein also

voiced opposition to the fact that Israel has for the first time agreed openly to the Palestinians raising the Jerusalem issue in deliberations on the permanent arrangement, as well as Israel's agreement to discuss with the Palestinians the return of refugees dating from 1967.

Der'i Expresses Support for Peace Agreement

TA0109073193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Interior Minister Arye Der'i said that he had still not heard Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's opinion on the peace agreement. However, he believed that the agreement should not be voted against because of the halakic ruling that everything must be done to save lives. The peace agreements were therefore necessary.

Der'i noted Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef's previous ruling that everything should be done in order not to place life at risk; however, he had also heard the chief of staff's assessment that the agreement could not stand on its own, and that many questions still remained unresolved.

In an interview with our correspondent, Minister Der'i said that he would continue to serve as a Knesset member, even if the High Court of Justice ordered his suspension from the government. Der'i asserted that he was not resigning from the government, because Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef had forbidden him to do so.

Gur on Accord With Palestinians, Security Issues

AU0109090393 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2000 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Interview with Mordekhay Gur, former chief of staff and now deputy defense minister, in Tel Aviv by Robert Hochner "before this cast" in Vienna—recorded; in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Hochner] By recognizing the PLO, Israel's government has done the unthinkable. By granting the Palestinians self-administration in Gaza and Jericho, it has done something that has been inconceivable in terms of security policy so far. Before this cast I asked Mordekhay Gur, former Israeli chief of staff and now deputy defense minister, how big the military risk posed by a Palestinian mini-state in Gaza and in Jericho is for Israel.

[Gur] First of all, we are not talking about a Palestinian mini-state. We are talking about autonomy. All responsibility for security will rest with the Israeli military forces. As long as we are talking about autonomy, we are not talking about any military risk. There will be problems in the daily security but not risks to the country.

[Hochner] Is the Israeli Army still able to guarantee security at all, especially in Gaza?

[Gur] Of course, that depends very much on the deployment of the forces. During the negotiations we must make it clear that our troops can intervene if the local administration is not able to stop terrorism on its territory. In line with the agreement, which we are ready to sign, the Israeli armed forces will be responsible for the security of all Israeli settlers and institutions also in Gaza. Our Army will have full freedom of movement in the autonomous areas.

[Hochner] Do you see an end of the intifadah after the agreement with the PLO and the Palestinians is signed?

[Gur] It is a precondition for the agreement that the PLO cease all acts of terrorism and recognizes the State of Israel. If it does not do that, there will be no agreement. However, I believe that it will do it. The question is how great the PLO's influence in Gaza is to implement what it wants and to face their refusenik organizations, of which they have a lot. This is a chance that is a risk. We shall have to wait and see.

[Hochner] How dangerous is Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], especially in Gaza?

[Gur] That depends for whom. As a terrorist organization Hamas is very dangerous, because its members are fanatics. They have caused a lot of trouble for us. If they also act like that against the local administration, they will certainly have difficulties.

[Hochner] Is there the danger that PLO Chairman 'Arafat will be toppled or will suffer the same fate as former Egyptian President al-Sadat, who was assassinated?

[Gur] You know, in the societies in the Middle East anything can happen. A radical Palestinian group has already threatened to kill 'Arafat. I would not rule out this possibility. However, I hope that this will not happen, because it is precisely now that all efforts should be aimed at a political solution and the implementation of continued peace.

[Hochner] Could you envision a point in time when your government might grant self-administration to the Palestinians in the other occupied territories?

[Gur] At Camp David, we agreed on autonomy for all occupied territories. Right now we have decided to begin with Gaza and Jericho. However, after a few months, if everything goes well and security is guaranteed, we can extend self-administration to other territories, except for Jerusalem and the Israeli settlements, as well as other issues that will be discussed during the negotiations and will remain under direct Israeli control.

Deputy Chief of Staff Voices Concerns

TA3108120993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Major General Amnon Shahaq, the deputy chief of staff, today told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will encounter difficulties in its war against terrorism after the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians. Shahaq said that an initial examination

indicates that the agreement creates very complex and difficult security problems. Our correspondent Tziyon Nanus reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] The members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee photocopied copies of the text of the agreement with the Palestinians, which appeared in this morning's edition of the YEDI'OT AHARONOT newspaper. Major General Amnon Shahaq has not seen the agreement yet. The only IDF officer to see the agreement was Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, who read it before yesterday evening's cabinet session.

On the surface, Shahaq said, the agreement creates very complex and difficult security problems. Shahaq estimated that the problems of security along the borders and in the settlements were manageable but said that he had no idea how to defend Israelis traveling on roads inside the areas of autonomy. Clearly, he said, we cannot post a soldier at every single spot. Another problem will be how to apprehend fugitives. It is inconceivable, Shahaq said, for us to have to coordinate such things with the local police. How can we prevent wanted men from escaping to Egypt through tunnels, as has already occurred in the past? In short, Shahaq said, it will be very difficult to act against terrorism after the implementation of the agreement. We will have to sit down and establish working groups with the Shin Bet, the police, and the Civil Administration in order to quickly supply solutions. In answer to a question, the deputy chief of staff said that it was unclear whether the new situation would lead to a thinning out of troops in the territories, perhaps exactly the opposite. Shahaq, at any rate, had no good news for those Israelis who will perform reserve duty in the territories following the agreement with the Palestinians. [end recording]

Shahaq on Defense Budget Restrictions

TA3108144693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Major General Amnon Shahaq, the deputy chief of staff, says that the proposed IDF [Israel Defense Forces] budget is extremely tight and will impose severe restrictions on the IDF. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Maj. Gen. Shahaq told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that over the last year the IDF managed to save huge amounts of money, but that the cost of routine security exceeded expectations by 100 million shekels. Operation Accountability also cost the same amount of money.

The deputy chief of staff also noted that August's draft was somewhat disappointing. The Army did not receive the quality manpower it expected. The medical boards rejected 21 percent of conscripts for battle units, compared with 16 percent last year. Maj. Gen. Shahaq noted that there is an increase in the number of detentions of those who refuse to serve in the units allotted them. There is also an increase in the number of soldiers found unfit to serve in the units to which they were sent. The deputy chief of staff said the IDF is examining these developments and studying these grave figures. So far he has no explanation for this phenomenon.

Right-Wing Party Leader Issues Threat Against 'Arafat

NC0109061793 Paris AFP in English 0507 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Sept 1 (AFP)—The leader of an Israeli far rightwing party has issued a veiled threat to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat about his safety if he comes to the West Bank town of Jericho.

Rehav'am Ze'evi, leader of the Moledet party, which has three deputies in parliament, said "If the Israeli government brings Yasir 'Arafat here alive, to Jericho, in the occupied West Bank, I don't know what state he will leave in."

Ze'evi was among a group of 15 rightwing Israeli lawmakers who travelled to Jericho Tuesday [31 August] to voice their opposition to the "Gaza-Jericho first" peace initiative.

The comments echoed those of radical Palestinian leader Ahmad Jibril, who threatened Monday to assassinate the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization if he accepted the "Gaza-Jericho first" plan.

Poll Gauges Settler, Palestinian Response to Plan

TA3108144193 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Aug 93 p 20

[Public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Institute directed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[Text] The following questions were posed in a poll conducted among Jewish settlers beyond the Green Line:

If the Gaza-Jericho First" plan is approved, how will you react?

- Active opposition, including the use of firearms against Israeli security forces: 2 percent.
- Active opposition, including the use of firearms against the autonomy's police force: 11 percent.
- Active opposition, without using firearms: 44 percent.
- Passive opposition: 19 percent.
- No opposition: 22 percent.
- Did not reply: 2 percent.

If the autonomy plan is implemented in all the areas slated for it, what will you do?

- Stay where you are: 68 percent.
- Move back into the boundaries of the Green Line: 22 percent.
- Not decided yet: 10 percent.

The poll was conducted yesterday. There were 401 respondents in the representative sample of the Jewish inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip

(excluding Ma'ale Adumim and Giv'at Ze'ev). The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Another poll conducted among Palestinians in the territories to gauged the response to the following question: Are you in favor or against the Gaza-Jericho First autonomy plan?

- In favor: 74 percent.
- Against: 24 percent.
- No opinion: 2 percent.

The poll was conducted by phone yesterday. There were 504 respondents in the representative sample of Palestinians who own telephones in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

Prime Minister Expects 'Progress' in 11th Round

NC3108185993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1757 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali, in Amman, by Shadya Riyad, in Cairo, within the "Talking Newspaper" program—live]

[Text] [Riyad] The Israeli Government's approval of the Gaza-Jericho plan was a historic turn of events. How do Jordanian circles view this development? Is it being seen as a landmark in the search for a settlement?

[Al-Majali] First of all, the Gaza-Jericho plan is a Palestinian concern. The Palestinian brothers succeeded in having their own track in the peace negotiations. We support any stand taken by the Palestinian brothers. They are free to do as they wish. We have not yet received the details of this proposal so I cannot comment on it, but, as I said, the Palestinians are free to do as they like.

At one point there was a joint Palestinian-Jordanian team that acted as an umbrella. In the bilateral talks, we succeeded in separating the two tracks. We made it clear that we would not negotiate for the Palestinians or sign for them. Therefore, it is all up to them now. They may do as they please.

[Riyad] How about the Jordanian fears that an untenable situation may emerge in Gaza and Jericho after Israel withdraws? Basic services, it is said, may deteriorate to the point where Palestinians begin moving to Jordan. Have these fears been allayed?

[Al-Majali] First of all, this cannot happen. Immigration to Jordan is out of the question. I do not think that the Palestinian leadership intends to allow emigration to Jordan. Jordan can take whatever measures it deems suitable to prevent such a drift of the population, because it involves displacement of the Palestinians, a matter to which we are vehemently opposed. Therefore, such migration will not be allowed. I do not think that the Palestinian leadership has any intention to encourage such a development.

[Riyad] Do you believe that the achievement of progress on the Israeli-Palestinian track may have a negative effect on other tracks, such as the Syrian-Israeli one?

[Al-Majali] I do not think that any progress on any of the tracks is progress for all the tracks. In the past, we made some progress and achieved an agenda that needed only some final touches to be announced. However, we said that we were not moving any further until we felt that there was some progress on other Arab tracks, particularly the Palestinian. Now that something has happened on the Palestinian track—if the news we heard is right—there is a chance for some activity to take place on the Jordanian track as well.

[Riyad] Do you expect these events to reflect on the 11th round of talks currently being held in Washington? Would it lead to a declaration of principles, for example?

[Al-Majali] I think so. I think that there will be some activity on all tracks. I expect progress on all tracks in the coming round.

[Riyad] Thank you.

[Al-Majali] You are welcome.

Further Reaction to Gaza-Jericho Option Reported

Palestinian Refugees 'Deeply Split'

JN0109084893 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Sep 93 p 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES"—by P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian refugees in Jordan Tuesday appeared deeply split in their reaction to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on partial Palestinian control of the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho as part of interim self-rule arrangements.

In general, the opinion varied depending on the places of origin. Those who came from cities and villages in pre-1948 Palestine rejected any solution that does not address the implementation of U.N. General Assembly Resolution 194 which deals with their problems.

The resolution, passed in 1948, calls for allowing Palestinians displaced by the creation of the state of Israel to return to their homes or receive compensation.

While some refugees from the Gaza Strip and West Bank said either that the Palestinian problem will never be resolved if anyone depended on Israeli and American "goodwill and desire for peace," others said they would like to wait and see whether the so-called Gaza-Jericho option meant total Palestinian control of territory without any Israeli interference.

Many of the refugees, having seen themselves pushed out of mandated Palestine in 1948 and again from the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, said they believed Israel had no intention to return land under its occupation.

They argued that the "Gaza-Jericho first" option could not be anything but part of an Israeli plan to get Palestinian endorsement of peace with the Jewish state and offer autonomy as a long-term arrangement. This, they said, would eventually clear the way for Israel to normalise relations with the Arab World and emerge as a regional economic power.

An equal number of refugees said it was too early to pass judgement on the plan, advocating patience ahead of the revelation of complete details of the agreement which the Israeli cabinet approved Monday night.

There were also a few voices of resignation to accepting that there is little the Arabs could do to get anything more than Israel is willing to give.

The hardline view seemed to prevail in the Baqa' camp.

"The Gaza-Jericho first solution is the Gaza-Jericho last solution," said Husayn Ibrahim, a tailor in the camp. "Israel is not going to give anything more, now, five years later, or ever."

"We have seen the deceptive politics of not only Israel but also the PLO," said Ramadan Kamel, an unemployed youth whose family fled a village near Ramallah in 1967. "Now that the two have got together, nothing good is going to come out except a sellout of the Palestinian cause."

"What are the Israelis asking for? A good behaviour certificate from the Palestinians?" he asked. "Why don't the Americans force Israel just to withdraw from the land and leave the Palestinians to do what they want with it? Why all this autonomy and interim arrangements and what not?"

Sipping coffee in a small shop in the sprawling camp, the biggest refugee camp in Jordan, Mr. Kamel also blamed "Arab disunity and pro-Western Arabs" for the Palestinian plight.

"If the Arabs were united and put up a strong front, then my family will not be in this camp," he said. "My parents still believe they can go back home, but I tell them not to dream."

Fatima, an elderly mother of six from Qalqilya in the West Bank, was furious that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat accepted a deal with the Israelis without securing the right of refugees to return home immediately.

"Abu Ammar (Mr. 'Arafat) and his people will now go to Jericho and set up offices or do whatever they want," she said. "What about us in this camp? Can we go home, and if so when? Are my grandchildren going to die of old age here?"

Amina, her neighbour, disagreed. "Abu-Ammar will find a way through soon. We have to wait for some time more," she said with conviction. When pressed, she admitted that her two sons were ardent supporters of Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction, but insisted that it had nothing to do with her trust in the PLO chairman, "who is honest and will not make bargains on Palestinian rights."

Mustafa Obeidi, a taxi driver, accused Mr. 'Arafat and "all other PLO leaders" of "seeking to serve their own personal objectives at the expense of the Palestinian people."

"Arafat would like to see himself carried on the shoulders of the Palestinian people across the bridge during his life time," said Mr. Obeidi, "that is his dream and ambition. He couldn't care less for what happens to the millions of Palestinians whom he claims to represent."

"Israel is taking 'Arafat for a ride, and 'Arafat in turn is taking us for a ride," he added. "Why can't they just announce that there is not going to be a Palestinian state and then leave us alone to think what we can do to regain our rights. We can do such thinking much better without people like 'Arafat."

"History will record that the peace process was not a peace process but a surrender process," he said.

In downtown Amman, moderation appeared to be holding.

"We don't know yet what agreement 'Arafat has secured from the Israelis," said Nazmi Qawash, who works at a ready-made garments store. "I am willing to accept the Gaza-Jericho option if it means total and unequivocal Palestinian control of territory."

"I don't want Israeli soldiers to treat me like a beggar when I cross the bridge next time, or ever after that," he added. "If 'Arafat or anyone else can assure me of that then I am all in support of the plan."

Mr. Qawash's colleague, Sa'd Abu Ra'd from Jerusalem, said that was not enough. "The return of Gaza and Jericho or whatever should be coupled with an international declaration accepted by Israel and guaranteed by the United States that an independent Palestinian state will be created in five years.

"Then I will accept even one inch of land and put up a Palestinian flag there and wait for five years."

Nidal Amer, a pavement vendor, argued that "after so many years of struggle it is not fair that we get only self-rule and have to prove ourselves before others will consider our legitimate rights."

"I don't really believe Israel will return the land to us. It is an illusion that it wants to create."

Mahmud 'Atar, a resident of the Wihdat Camp, said he believed that the Labour-led government in Israel seriously wanted to end the conflict with Arabs, "but is trying to reach a solution which gives as little as possible to the Arabs."

"But what can we do about it? Nothing. The Arabs are divided and some of them are even serving Israeli interests by lifting the (trade) embargo and cooperating with Israel in world forums."

Ihsan Shehadeh, his withered body visibly shaking, pulled out an old rusty key from his collapsed cupboard in Baqa'. "This is the key to my home in Haifa. I carried it with me when I left.

"Can 'Arafat return me there to reopen my door?"

Threat to Pan-Arabism Seen

JN0109094893 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Sep 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "From Oslo to Jericho"]

[Text] No one in this great homeland opposed Egypt's restoration of its occupied territory and seeing its dear flag fly high over every inch of Egypt's soil. What scared the nation and made it stand united against the Camp David agreements is its realization that any political settlement between any Arab party and our Zionist enemy, apart from a comprehensive and just settlement, is a unilateral action. This kind of settlement would set a precedent leading the enemy from one separate deal to another until the pan-Arab issue lost its pan-Arab and national dimensions, and the Arab homeland split into many homelands defeated by weakness, subservience, and disability.

No one in this great homeland opposes the Palestinians, Jordanians, Syrians, or Lebanese restoring every inch of their occupied homelands. But, this must be premised on the essentials of the continuing conflict between the nation and its Zionist enemy and the struggle for existence. This issue is more serious for the Palestinians. The Arab-Zionist conflict is a result of the aggression on Palestine. Emptying this conflict of its Palestinian content means turning the Arabs into mere neighbors who are not linked together by Arabism, Islam, and destiny.

If we are expressing entrenched fears and bitter disappointment—the causes of which cannot be defended—it is because we realize that the Palestinian cause unified us as one nation sharing all suffering, dozens of conspiracies, and the pain of millions of Arab children, women, elderly, and youths who have paid dearly with their lives, dreams, and aspirations for almost half a century of harsh confrontation of the enemy and its allies. It is the right of those who have suffered, and who still suffer, as well as hundreds of thousands of Arab martyrs, to feel they are in the picture when a just peace and a comprehensive justice is sought. We do not mean that a statement on accomplishments should be announced or a statement of the latest developments faxed to every Arab house. The Arabs, though, should be convinced that all of them were in Norway and that what was reached by one party is good for all parties. The price of compensation for what we all paid for Egypt will be high. No one wants this to be repeated in a way that leaves others, especially us, the Jordanians, with all these feelings of sorrow and grief.

Delegation Member Dudin Comments

TA3108153093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 31 Aug 93 p 12

[Interview with Marwan Dudin, member of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks and "former minister of occupied territories affairs in the Jordanian Government," by Arab affairs correspondent Smadar Peri on 30 August; place not given]

[Text] [Dudin] We are not opposed to the Gaza-Jericho plan, but we are displeased with the fact that we had to learn about it from the press. It is inconceivable that we should be left in the dark. After all, Jericho is linked to Jordan's interests.

We could proceed to sign the Jordanian-Israeli document of principles as soon as we heard from our colleagues in the Palestinian delegation that they had reached an agreement on the guidelines of an arrangement. As far as we are concerned, all the issues are closed and Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the head of our delegation, has the authority to sign it. We were waiting for progress on the Palestinian track.

[Peri] Do you have an assessment when it will be possible to present the full achievement with Jordan and the Palestinians?

[Dudin] I believe that until the end of 1993 we will witness the signing of the agreements, which will be very interesting. What we see now is very picturesque, and brings to mind a field of potatoes. There is green all around, and soon we will go out to reap the harvest.

Media Reaction Summarized

JN3108150493

[Editorial Report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 29 August cites Talal Sat'an al- Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, as saying upon his return from Beirut on 28 August: "Jordan has to know more about the Gaza-Jericho proposal before making any evaluation of it." Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic at 0400 GMT on 31 August carried a 12-minute report citing news agencies on the Israeli cabinet's approval of the agreement and pertinent Israeli and world statements.

In a statement reported by JORDAN TIMES and other Jordanian Arabic dailies on 30 August, Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front, "expressed opposition to proposals for confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian entity as well as the Gaza-Jericho option on the grounds that both proposals aim at preventing the creation of a Palestinian state."

The three Jordanian Arabic dailies—AL-DUSTUR, SAWT AL-SHA'B, and AL-RA'Y—as well as the English-language daily JORDAN TIMES on 31 August carry front-page banner headlines highlighting the Palestinian-Israeli "Gaza-Jericho" agreement. The four dailies also devote their editorials to the reported agreement. While stressing need for inter-Arab coordination on the peace process, the papers implicitly criticize the PLO for lack of coordination with Jordan on this issue.

In an editorial on pages 1 and 26, AL-DUSTUR states that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement "has surprised many observers and those who follow developments in the Middle East negotiations." Nonetheless, the paper adds, Jordan supports "independent Palestinian decisions, placing the supreme pan-Arab interests above all other considerations."

Although it does not mention the PLO or the Palestinian-Israeli agreement by name, AL-RA'Y states in an editorial published on pages 1 and 24 that one should admit that a "grave mistake" has been made, and that such a mistake could have "disastrous" results.

In its editorial, published on pages 1 and 17, SAWT AL-SHA'B says that the "Gaza-Jericho First Option" is still "vague to all parties, and it should be considered and studied carefully by the cordon states to develop a unified stand, for or against it." After stressing the importance of coordination among Arab parties to the peace process, the paper says that Israel seeks to conclude "separate agreements" with certain Arab parties to weaken the position of other parties and to force them to "yield to and accept the Israeli terms and concepts."

SAWT AL-SHA'B carries on page 20, within the "Orbits" column, an article by columnist Hani al-Khasawinah, in which he says citizens are "astonished" by the reported Gaza-Jericho agreement, complaining about the lack of any authoritative information so far about this agreement. The writer fears that the Gaza-Jericho option will revive the idea of Jordan as an alternative homeland for the Palestinians and the beginning of the materialization of "the Zionist dream of the establishment of a Greater Israel, but with an Arab contribution this time." The writer goes on to say that Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the PLO "even under the current circumstances, are capable of formulating and inventing feasible strategies that would maintain Palestinian rights and enable the Arabs to hold fast in the face of the attempts to wrest historic concessions from them."

Columnist Fahd al-Fanik, on page 26 of AL-RA'Y, after enumerating the advantages Israel will gain from such an agreement, says "in spite of the real apprehensions one has that this plan will be just a test to fail the PLO and circumvent autonomy and full withdrawal, the PLO cannot reject an Israeli proposal to withdraw first from Gaza and Jericho. Otherwise, it will be repeating the mistake made by al-Rantisi who at one time rejected Israel's proposal to allow the gradual return of the deportees".

In his "Every Day" column on page 28 of AL-RA'Y, Tariq Masarwah says "It goes without saying that the security concerns Jordan has evinced from the Gaza-Jericho option stem from the fear that a major "transfer" operation may take place from the Gaza Strip through Jericho. Thus, Jordan may find itself compelled to close the bridges. Aside from this, no one, other than the Palestinian side, has the political amd moral audacity to negotiate on the Palestinian issue."

In its editorial on same topic, filed as jn3108071193, the JORDAN TIMES says "the PLO should approach the coming crucial stage of negotiations with Israel with utmost caution. It cannot afford failure nor can its constituency. The Gaza-Jericho option should work as a prelude towards realising all the political rights of the Palestinians. It should not become a failure which Israel can cite eventually to deny the PLO, and the Palestinians in general, their legitimate aspirations and right for statehood over their own land."

The Jordanian papers on 31 August also carry extensive reporting, citing news agencies, on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, the Israeli cabinet's approval of it, and statements by PLO leader 'Arafat and other Palestinian officials. Also citing news agencies, the papers carry statements by Palestinian factions opposed to the agreement.

In its 30 August issue, the Amman weekly AL-AHALI, mouthpiece of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, says within a frontpage editorial on the PLO current crisis: "Accepting the Gaza-Jericho plan is a blatant acceptance of the direct plans of the occupation. Israeli withdrawal from Gaza is an old idea imposed by the acts of resistance to put an end to the heavy and bloody price that the occupiers are paying as a result of keeping an active bomb in their hands. As for Jericho (notice that it is Jericho, not any other site), adding it to Gaza is aimed at nothing but to expand the bridge point and customs desks there to legitimize the Israeli penetration into the Arab surrounding with an Arab and Palestinian sponsorship."

King Returns From Damascus Meeting With al-Asad

JN3108174893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] With God's care and protection, His Majesty King Husayn returned home following a brief visit to the Syrian Arab Republic during which he met with His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The Jordanian delegation, headed by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Syrian delegation, headed by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, held talks in a brotherly atmosphere, which dealt with the [Arab] nation's current condition and issues, and the means to restore Arab solidarity. Emphasis was placed on the need for Arab coordination, especially as regards the peace process, to reach the just, lasting, and comprehensive peace.

The talks also dealt with the brotherly ties between the two fraternal countries and means to enhance them in all fields.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; and Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, his majesty the king's military secretary.

On the Syrian side, the talks were attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The two leaders held a closed session during which they discussed the latest developments.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad headed those seeing his majesty the king off from the airport. Also seeing the king off were Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim

Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al- Zu'bi, ministers, senior Syrian officials, and staff of the Jordanian Embassy in Damascus.

His Majesty the king was received at the airport by Prince Muhammad, his majesty the king's special representative; Prince Faysal Bin-al-Husayn; Prince Ghazi Bin-Muhammad; Prince 'Ali Bin- Nayif, the king's private secretary, and a number of senior officials.

[Video shows King Husayn meeting with al-Asad in the People's Palace, al-Asad bidding farewell to the king in Damascus airport, and the king's arrival in Amman airport.]

King Orders Reconstruction of Saladin Pulpit

JN2808161993 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Amman, 28 Aug (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has ordered that every effort should be made immediately to reconstruct the pulpit of Saladin [in Jerusalem] in its real image, so it can once again play its historic role in guiding the believers and standing proudly and strongly against the ambitions of invaders.

His majesty ordered that this project should fall, along with the project of repairing the Dome of the Rock, under the supervision of the committee entrusted with reconstructing the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. He also ordered that all efforts be pooled to reconstruct the pulpit. This came in a message that His Majesty King Husayn addressed to Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali. [passage omitted]

IAF To Campaign in Elections With 'Full Force'

JN3008110593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Aug 93 p 1, 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front (IAF) will contest the next parliamentary elections with "full force" even though its leaders are convinced that their performance in the polls might not be truly reflective of grassroot support for the Islamists in the country.

"We will exert the greatest possible effort to carry the largest number of (our) candidates to Parliament," IAF president Ishaq al- Farhan told a press conference Sunday.

But the results of the elections would not reflect the "size" of the Islamists' support in the country because of the "restrictions" on the means of expressing this support, said IAF deputy president and former Muslim Brotherhood Deputy 'Abdallah al-Akayilah.

"The first of these limitations are imposed by the (new) election law," Dr. Akayilah said. "The real size (of the Islamists) can only be seen in a 'real democracy'."

Dr al-Farhan said that although the IAF believes the electoral changes, introduced unilaterally by the government earlier this month, were tailored to weaken its performance in the elections for the 12th Parliament, it has decided to participate in the polls to protect "the stability and higher interests of the country."

"His Majesty King Husayn's commitment to the holding of fair and free elections was among the motives to participate in the elections," Dr. al-Farhan, a member of the Upper House of Parliament, said.

But while Dr. al-Farhan said the IAF was still studying the possibility of contesting the legality of the electoral changes in court, in concert with other political parties, Dr. Akaileh ruled out that option as "a waste of time."

"Since the new election law was announced by the King, we see no feasibility for this option. We will not waste time in a useless effort," said Dr. Akayilah, who had served as minister of education in Mudar Badran's coalition government with the Muslim Brotherhood movement, which is the backbone of the IAF.

The IAF had been the fiercest opponent of electoral changes before they were issued on Aug. 17 but its opposition fizzled out almost immediately after the new temporary election law was announced.

Observers believe the new law will stop the Islamists from repeating the electoral gains they made in 1989 under the bloc-voting system by denying them the opportunity to form alliances with other candidates.

In 1989, the Muslim Brotherhood, whose candidates would contest the coming elections on the IAF ticket, won 23 seats in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament. Observers say the number was disproportionate to the Islamists' actual grassroot support.

The IAF says it opposed the electoral changes due to the "undemocratic" mechanism through which they were introduced. It also argues the changes were limited and would eventually harm "national unity."

Dr. al-Farhan said the IAF would carry the "legal battle" for electoral reforms to the 12th Parliament through its elected deputies who would lobby for dividing Jordan into a number of constituencies equal to the number of seats in the Lower House, lowering the voting age from 19 to 18 and "giving political parties a larger role in the electoral process."

Jordan is currently divided into 20 voting districts drawn in accordance with administrative local government divisions. Seats ranging from two to nine are assigned for each governorate or district.

Dr. al-Farhan warned that the IAF's decision not to boycott the elections is not final. He said the front would pull out of the elections if the government tampers with the electoral process.

The IAF's reaction to the unilateral government changes of the election law was severely criticised by other opponents of electoral changes who charged the "Islamist never represented true opposition."

In commenting upon reports that Islamists had stuck a deal with the government in order not to boycott the elections, Dr. Akayilah said: "The government would not have changed the election law if it had signed deals with the (IAF)."

The IAF last week decided against boycotting the elections during a meeting of its "shura" council, the highest decision-making authority of the IAF. The 120-member council voted 85 to 16 for taking part in the elections. Nineteen members did not attend the meeting.

The council, in a statement it issued after its meeting Thursday night, said it took the decision because "the positive results of contesting the elections outweigh the negative ones and to guard against the grave dangers that a decision to boycott the elections would pose for the higher interest of the states and the future of Islamic political work in Jordan and the Muslim and Arab World."

The IAF leaders stressed they will continue to seek the establishment of an Islamic state through gradual reform and non-violent means.

"We seek power in order to establish reform. We seek majority in Parliament and we do that through constitutional means so that we initiate the process of reform," said Dr. Akayilah.

Dr. al-Farhan urged the government to "rise to the level that King Husayn wants it to reach" and warned that the IAF will watch it for any practices "that might favour one party over the other."

Dr. al-Farhan, also a former minister of education, said the front would "soon" announce the names of its candidates for the coming Parliament and that it would "take the necessary action" against any members who choose to run for the elections independently.

Touching on other regional issues, Dr. al-Farhan blamed the violence in Egypt and Algeria on the failure of the regimes in Cairo and Algiers to communicate with their peoples. He said dialogue provides the best means for ending the violence in these countries.

Dr. al-Farhan reiterated his party's call for lifting the sanctions against Iraq, saying Baghdad would "win the battle the West is launching against it by resorting to Islam, national reconciliation and the initiation of shura and democratic reforms."

"The solution lies inside Iraq," he said.

Dr. al-Farhan also called for terminating the peace process with Israel and expressed opposition to proposals for confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian entity as well as the Gaza-Jericho option on the grounds that both proposals aim at preventing the creation of a Palestinian state.

Al-Hariri, Syria's al-Asad Discuss Peace Process

NC0109055393 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY carried a report from Paris that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who is currently in the French capital, telephoned the Syrian president to discuss regional developments. They concentrated on issues pertaining to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, most notably those dealing with the Palestinian-Israeli track in light of developments.

Buwayz Leaves for Syria To Confer on Gaza-Jericho

NC0109081193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has left for Syria for talks with Syrian officials on the latest developments in the Gaza- Jericho issue and the peace process.

Regrets 'Lack of Coordination'

NC3108153793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Statement by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, followed by remarks in response to questions by unidentified correspondents, in Beirut on 31 August—recorded]

[Text] [Buwayz] First, I would like to say that the issue of what is called the Israeli-Palestinian agreement on Gaza and Jericho was not raised in a clear and complete manner at the Arab foreign ministers coordination conference. Our understanding of coordination is that all the parties should be briefed in advance about forthcoming decisions and not after the decisions have been made.

Regarding the issue of Gaza and Jericho, we do not want to outbid anyone. We do not wish to give lessons to any one, especially as we appreciate the pressures and problems facing the Palestinian people. We hope, together with the Palestinian people, that they will regain the land of Palestine in preparation for the establishment of the promised Palestinian homeland. But we must say that Gaza-Jericho first, as the plan stands today, does not actually offer the precision to reassure everyone about the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights and land for the sake of establishing their homeland. The features of this plan are not yet clear, suggesting that the return of Gaza and Jericho constitutes a process that is separate from an integrated plan. What we were hoping for was that Gaza and Jericho would be part of an integrated plan, as much as possible. We are not speaking about a specific and final plan, but a plan with at least some clear features and framework.

This plan contains two problems: First, there are no horizons after Gaza and Jericho. This is the first serious matter. Second, the powers given to the Palestinians under the autonomy in Gaza and Jericho are not sufficient. This is also serious, suggesting that autonomy will be exercised with the least of its characteristics. In other words, what we have heard so far is that the Israeli army will maintain its right to intervene inside these areas. The Jewish settlements will remain under the protection of the Israeli army. The boundaries of this area will remain under direct Israeli control. Therefore, we think that these powers are still much less than what we want for the Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, will the Palestinians who reside in Lebanon be settled here [words indistinct]?

[Buwayz] The United Nations has endorsed the right of the Palestinians to return. When the issue is raised, we will adopt the appropriate stand.

[Correspondent] If agreement is reached between the Palestinians and the Israelis on the Gaza-Jericho plan, what effect will this have on the other negotiating tracks, particularly the Lebanese-Israeli track?

[Buwayz] I said clearly that we are interested in the Gaza- Jericho issue because we think that the Palestinian issue is an Arab responsibility and is in the conscience of every Arab citizen. Therefore, we cannot rejoice about what has been agreed upon as long as we do not think that the Gaza-Jericho plan constitutes a stage in a specific and integrated plan and as long as we do not see that the autonomy includes the full powers we seek for the Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, don't you think that what happened between the Palestinians and Israel is a violation of Arab coordination?

[Buwayz] Of course. I began by saying that we understand Arab coordination as consultation, coordination, and mutual understanding before decisions are made and not after.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, Mr. Battle [U.S. charge d'affaires in Beirut] met with you yesterday. Did he convey new U.S. proposals to promote the peace process?

[Buwayz] He did not convey new proposals as such, but he conveyed an American atmosphere, which he said will be dynamic and vital.

[Correspondent] The Arab parties entered into negotiations with Israel on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for exchanging land for peace. Do you think that the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which will be signed, has diverted the peace process from its right course and established a basis for separate agreements rejected by the Arab parties?

[Buwayz] The issue is not that of separate or comprehensive agreement. We have often said that we are not against any initiative within the framework of the peace process. The problem and the issue is that it does not inspire confidence to accept Gaza and Jericho if it is not part of an integrated Palestinian plan and within the framework of the return of the occupied Palestinian

territories. If this step were part of an integrated plan and we knew where it was leading, the issue would be different.

Hizballah Chief on 'Balance of Terror' With Israel

NC3108163093 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 27 Aug 93 p 4

[Interview with Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah conducted by AL-SAFIR correspondents Ibrahim al-Amin and George Bkasini; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SAFIR] Let us start with the negotiations. With the approach of each new round, a wave of optimism prevails, perhaps this time more so than before. Do you believe that there will be something new in the negotiations? Do you expect the coming round to yield anything new? Where, within this framework, do you place the recent Israeli aggression?

[Nasrallah] Away from all the forms of optimism that used to be proposed earlier, no progress has been made in the ninth and 10th rounds, especially on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. In addition, the Palestinian track is going through many basic complications. Perhaps the most important reasons behind the recent Israeli aggression in the seven-day war is that the Israelis reached a dead end in the negotiations and are now unable to resolve part of their problems through political negotiations. They wanted to carry out the military operation to weaken the Lebanese and Arab status and topple some of the strong cards in the hands of the Arab negotiators.

America will try to use the recent aggression in the 11th round. The Israeli operation will leave its mark on the coming round. However, this issue continues to wager on the cohesion and firmness of the Arab stand. Will the Arab negotiators offer any concessions, gains, and privileges to Israel in return for the recent aggression? So far, we have not seen anything new. Even what we heard from the enemy's Prime Minister Rabin yesterday is not new. It is a public declaration of something that has been in circulation for some time and was proposed to Lebanese officials. Whether they denied their knowledge of this or not is of no consequence. It is a proposal that was made some time ago. It was conveyed through some mediators, but was rejected as far as I know.

Rabin made an old proposal and did not present anything new. According to our information on all the stands, we do not believe that any important progress will be made during the 11th round, especially since the Israelis continue to be adamant. The problem will continue to crop up in the coming rounds. This problem consists of Israel's unwillingness to make any concessions at a time when the Arab negotiators have made all the concessions they can. U.S. pressure is nothing new. It has been there and will continue to be there.

[AL-SAFIR] Was what Rabin said yesterday discussed after the recent aggression, that is, during the contacts the United States held before reaching what was called the cease-fire agreement?

[Nasrallah] As far as I remember, this proposal was there during and after the aggression. However, it is a proposal that is there. It dealt with the borders of the security strip and the objective is to disarm the resistance and make security arrangements with the strip as an experiment. If this trial succeeds, then security arrangements on the entire border area could be discussed. Since the time this proposal was first made, we have said that it is trap because if the Lebanese state agrees to stopping resistance operations while the occupation continues, it would benefit Israel. On the other hand, it would help Israel because it would stir up sedition and start a civil war. Israel knows exactly what our stand is and that the proposal will be a point of conflict among the Lebanese because some will not agree to stop resistance operations so long as there is land occupied. The purpose of the Israeli proposals is to create sedition in the south between the state (through the Army) and the resistance. In the final analysis, Israel will not abide by even those borders that it is talking about because it will not abandon its card regarding the occupation of Lebanon and withdraw without forcing a unilateral peace agreement onto Lebanon.

[AL-SAFIR] After the aggression you talked of information about a political scandal that might reach the extent of treason. Did you mean that?

[Nasrallah] I think it was a matter of analysis. What counts is information and documents. There is one big question: Did officials in Lebanon know about the Israeli operation in advance? Signs indicate that some officials knew. We have not opened that file and do not want to open it right now. However, there is rigorous action to clarify the matter.

In any state, if leaders know about an aggressive action in advance and fail to warn their people or the resistance they keep describing as a legal and lawful action [sentence incomplete as published] They leave the people and the resistance vulnerable to a sudden enemy attack, which could have caused graver losses had we not been alert.

If this is the case, then the matter can legally be classified as treason. What then if the matter goes beyond mere knowledge in advance to the extent of coordination and agreement, as what might be said or circulated?

[AL-SAFIR] When the aggression stopped, there was talk about a way out to reach a cease-fire. It has been said that there was a signed written agreement concerning Katyusha rockets and the resistance position. What is Hizballah's side of the story?

[Nasrallah] During the aggression, we held political contacts with official, spiritual, and political leaders in Lebanon. We rose above all sensitivities and personal differences. We contacted our brothers in Damascus,

where the indicator of the strength of the political situation is. We were careful throughout the seven-day war to put the Syrian brothers in the picture about actual events in the battlefield, as well as in the political and popular arena, since this had considerable bearing on the situation. At that point, differences emerged between us and others in handling the situation. There is a difference between saying that people are complaining, that the country is threatened with discord, and that chaos will prevail in Beirut and saying that there is peerless steadfastness in the south, high morale, popular interaction in the Islamic and Christian arenas, understanding of people's position, and significant internal cohesion. The picture was different from the past. Whoever has a certain political background can present the image in whatever way serves his interests.

We went to Damascus as Israel was starting to make concessions in terms of its goals: From the slogan of eliminating Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance to the demand to disarm Hizballah, and later, to freeze operations. This was a recognition of the resistance's right to carry weapons in return for freezing its operations. Eventually, Israel said that the ultimate goal of the operation was to prevent Katyushas falling on civilians in northern Palestine settlements. Here we come to the contacts that were held. When the Israelis retreated to that goal, they had failed to achieve their goals militarily. Their warplanes and artillery were bombarding the valleys, plains, and points from where Katyushas were likely to be fired. However, although we had no ground defenses, the Katyushas did not stop until the seventh day of the operation. This means that the Israelis, who possess the biggest and most sophisticated military power in the region, were militarily incapable of stopping Katyusha attacks against settlements. This was not only a military defeat, but a scandal involving the Israeli military power.

Hence, the contacts began with Damascus at the center. The Americans played the role of mediator and the other side was Israel. All the talk with us was as follows: The Israeli operation was the result of the steadfastness of the resistance, the political situation in the country, Syria's stand, and Iran's cooperation. There are several factors that the Israelis want to finish with and there is talk about finding a way out of the issue. On the question of the rockets, can there possibly be a solution to this issue? That was the question directed to us. No one told us that he was drawing up an agreement or a deal and asked us to discuss it. That was the only question (about the rockets) that was addressed to us.

Of course I was a partner in the issue and the question was addressed to me. I said: If there is nothing that affects the resistance operations or movement and if the question is one of only the rockets, then this problem can be solved. I also said that there is nothing we can give in this respect because we had said two years before that our policy in the resistance is not to shell the settlements but to stage operations inside the occupied area. But when our people, towns, cities, and villages are shelled, then it is our right to use all weapons available to us to repel this aggression. This is our policy. We never once started by shelling the settlements with Katyushas. Even Rabin himself had said on several occasions that Hizballah never started shelling the settlements but did so in retaliation for our military actions. This has become known and the formula is simple: Let the aggression against Lebanon and the bombardment of civilians stop and we will not fire rockets and thus eliminate the reason for shelling the settlements. We have no problem with this. It was said this is good. Let there be a move to set a time for a cease-fire. We said that we did not start the war. The one who timed the aggression has to stop firing. As soon as we hear that the aggression will stop at a certain hour, then the shelling with the Katyushas will stop. But if the aggression continues, then the Katyusha shelling will continue. We immediately returned to Lebanon and on Saturday we heard that the Israelis had declared a time for a cease-fire, 0600. Then the aggression and the shelling stopped.

[AL-SAFIR] Have you assessed the outcome of the Katyusha policy you have adopted?

[Nasrallah] Before the aggression ended, some officials made an assessment about whether the Katyusha policy was a wrong or a hasty one, or whether it was the right policy and what had it achieved. I believe that this is one of the points of dispute in the arena.

Following these events, we became more convinced of the soundness of this policy, contrary to what some people are trying to depict. Of course, what is meant is the policy we pursue that says the objective is not to fire Katyushas but if the civilians and villages are bombarded, then the settlements in northern Palestine will not be out of reach. We are convinced that this policy has produced something very important and we saw this after the Shihin operation [in which nine Israeli soldiers were killed]. In the past, the resistance used to carry out an operation targeting a Lahd [South Lebanese Army] patrol and kill a member of the Lahd army and this was followed by shelling of al-Nabatiyah, Bra'shit, and other townships. The same happened whenever a mine exploded. The permanent and quick option for the Israelis and the Lahd army was to shell the villages and civilians in retaliation for any resistance operation. But we notice that in the wake of the Shihin operation, which led to this major result, not a single shell fell on any southern town. The Israeli enemy appeared confused and it held a mini-cabinet meeting. Its response was to shell Janta and an antiaircraft position in al-Biqa'. But no civilians were shelled and the enemy sought to attack military targets it believed to be Hizballah centers.

Why didn't the Israelis shell the southern villages following this big loss and this operation, which was praised and blessed by all? I would like an answer to this question from the troika or any official. Our answer is clear: Because the Israelis maintain that shelling the civilians will lead to the resumption of shelling settlements in northern Palestine. Just as the shelling of

civilians is hard for our people, it is also hard for others, and they cannot endure as much as we can.

The Katyusha attacks in the past led to a new equation based on mutual displacement and destruction and balance of terror. This equation was imposed by the Katyusha and not the resistance operations in the security strip. There is something that is very important to the Israelis now. It is the security of the settlements in northern Palestine. If the settlements are attacked again, Rabin will have to face his people and all the political forces and answer the question: What has the seven-day operation achieved? Rabin understands that there is a new equation. The one who imposed this equation for the first time was not Israel, but the resistance. The settlements were not shelled in the past, and since 1985 the villages and towns in the south and western al-Biqa' have been the target of Israeli shelling. The basis of the game was that we shell the enemy and the enemy shells and destroys Maydun, Yatar, Kafra, and so forth, while the Israeli settlements remained secure. We were allowed to act in the security strip. However, the resistance imposed a new equation through the Katyushas. We now abide by the new game, which we established. Therefore, I think that the war experience proved that this policy was sound and wise and must be used because we must not protect the enemy's weak points. We must enhance our strong points and exert pressure on Israel's weak points to ease the pain of our people. This is what has been achieved recently.

We have suspended the Katyusha attacks. This is all that has happened on our side. But what happened elsewhere? It is certain that from the first day after the cease-fire contacts were held with Syrian officials, who reassured us that no deal was made, only an agreement to stop the aggression in return for stopping Katyusha attacks. I issued a statement two days before the end of the operation in which I said the same thing. I said there is no way the Katyusha attacks will stop unless the aggression against our people stops.

We were not party to and had absolutely nothing to do with any deals, contacts, or promises that may have been made by others in the country. We do not have precise information on this matter. We have heard reports but do not have information confirming that written commitments were made by Lebanese officials.

[AL-SAFIR] In your view, what is the effect of what was called the cease-fire on the 11th round of the peace talks? In other words did the recent operation in Shihin target the next round?

[Nasrallah] This question brings up a bigger question: Is resistance for liberation or for striking at the negotiations? We think that the Americans and Israelis have ignored the fact that there is an occupied land and that resistance to occupation is a legitimate right for any nation. They deal with the resistance on the basis that its goal is to subvert the peace process; therefore, they call for taking a stand against this resistance.

I read newspaper commentaries on the Shihin operation suggesting that the aim of the operation was to send domestic and regional messages. However, this is not correct, because resistance existed before the negotiations, it is continuing during the negotiations, and it will continue even if the negotiations fail. Resistance is connected with occupation; as long as there is occupation, there will be resistance.

There were no negotiations being held when the resistance was launched to suggest that we initiated resistance to bring down the settlement process in the region. No, we are resisting the existing occupation. From 1982-1985 a great victory was achieved when the Israeli troops were forced to withdraw. From 1985 until now, the Islamic resistance has not ceased and its action is not subject to any timing or political circumstances.

One day before or during the seventh round of negotiations, the al-Ahmadiyah operation was carried out in which five Israelis were killed and five others wounded by a charge. This caused a storm in the negotiations with the Lebanese delegation and the discussions turned to the resistance issue. At the time many said that the operation's aim was to hamper that round. I asserted at that time that a resistance group may now be inside the border strip laying an ambush or planting an explosive charge for the enemy and that I have no knowledge of such an operation because to us this is a daily routine.

Resistance operations are not seasonal or political; they are a daily activity carried out by our brothers and the most senior official in the resistance may not know about it at that moment.

The explosive charge of al-Ahmadiyah could have hit a Lahd [South Lebanese Army] patrol but it so happened that it hit an Israeli patrol that day. Sometimes an explosive charge goes off and kills only one Israeli. Thus, we do not have control over the target; we decide whether or not to strike at that target, but we cannot force an Israeli to pass through a certain place at a certain time instead of Lahd's group. This has to do with their tactics.

The Shihin operation comes in the context of the resistance's assertion of the continuation of its operations in a very normal way. Before the Shihin attack, we had carried out 10 operations since the recent aggression was halted. This contradicts the assertion that the aim of the Shihin operation is to refute reports of a certain agreement concerning the resistance activity. But what is unique about the Shihin operation is its magnitude and the huge losses inflicted on the Israelis. In fact, there is no connection between the resistance attacks and the peace talks. The resistance operations are connected only with occupation. [passage omitted]

[AL-SAFIR] Do you think that the seven-day war was a rehearsal for a bigger war to come, or was it merely a means to kick start the stalemated talks?

[Nasrallah] Israel has an old agenda. It wants to achieve total domination of the region. The Israelis entertained such dreams when they were weak and scattered. How about now that they are in a position of strength, face a dismembered Arab and Islamic world, and enjoy the support of the new international order?

Negotiations are a necessity for Israel, for they serve its interests. Israel hopes, through negotiations, to control the entire region at a small cost. The enemy seeks an isolated settlement. It works with the United States to step up pressure on the forces of rejection, primarily Syria, in order to achieve a peace that is in Israel's interest.

This is why I do not think that Israel needs a total war. It is getting what it wants with minimum, if any, losses. It is now giving the Arabs booby-trapped initiatives, such as the offer that Rabin made to Lebanon yesterday and the "Gaza first" option presented to the Palestinians. The latter, if accepted, would be catastrophic, for it would threaten the Palestinian issue with extinction.

Therefore, the seven-day war was an act of pressure and intimidation. Its aim was to burn the card of the resistance, a goal that remains unaccomplished. Remarkably, the United States warned everyone, particularly the Arabs, that if the negotiations fail the recent war will not be the last.

[AL-SAFIR] The Shihin operation sent unprecedented ripples across the Israeli military institution. How do you see the enemy's reaction to this operation? Some think that the answer will be of an intelligence-security type rather than one of direct military action.

[Nasrallah] You have to read carefully through the remarks of the enemy leaders. Right now, they say that they cannot repeat the recent operation every week. Their statements do not suggest that a large-scale operation is in the offing. But this should not make us rule out bigger possibilities. We are alert for all eventualities.

[AL-SAFIR] There is renewed talk of the need for harmony between the state and resistance. Some observers associate such remarks with the negotiations issue. How do you view this issue?

[Nasrallah] The one who seems most interested in this subject is Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. We did not ignore this talk, but sought to obtain clarifications about its significance.

If what is meant is that resistance should don a political guise, this is something we entirely reject. We do not want resistance to become a seasonal affair, in the sense that someone would come up and say: It is time to hold negotiations now, so please tone down operations. Or: We have been getting some positive signals from the Americans, so let us halt resistance for a while, let us just keep it quiet for now. This is something that I do not approve of at all. I would not dwell for long on the ability of one Arab negotiator or another to make capital out of resistance acts.

If harmony is taken to mean the need to coordinate the performance of the resistance, then we have no objection to discussing it, but only with those concerned, that is, those who engage in resistance, just like we do. We are not ready to discuss this issue with those who do not want the resistance to exist. We are ready to cooperate with and assist all those who wish to resume and intensify their participation in resistance acts. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Leader on Ties With Iran, Syria

LD3108170093 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 31, IRNA—Secretary-General of Lebanese Hizballah Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah today said that his party's ties with Islamic Iran is something more than a simple link. "We share the firm bonds of Islamic laws and jurisprudence rather than ordinary ethnic or geographical factors," he said in an exclusive interview with Lebanese Arabic daily NIDA' AL-WATAN (CALL OF THE HOMELAND).

Nasrallah saying that decision-making in Hizbullah is under the supervision of the secretary-general, dismissed the idea of "foreign dictates" influencing the party's policy. He called the ties between Hizballah and Syria as "strategic," adding that there is complete agreement between Syria and Hizballah on principle issues.

Commenting on the so-called Middle East peace talks, Nasrallah rejected any sort of compromise and said Hizballah gives priority to the liberation of occupied lands and to counter the enemy's threats. Hizballah making use of all its facilities and capabilites will step up its fight against the enemies until the realization of the victory, he stressed.

Speaker Birri Outlines Domestic Development Goals

NC3108150693 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Lebanese areas have responded to a call by the Amal Movement and Hizballah for a strike to commemorate the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr.

A rally was held in Ba'labakk during which speeches were delivered by representatives of President al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and spiritual leaders. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri also spoke at the rally.

Speaking on behalf of the president, Minister Nicholas Fattush said that the steadfastness of the south and Western al-Biqa' residents and the unity of the Lebanese people in confronting the Israeli acts of aggression have

restored the confidence in our right to regain our sovereignty over all the homeland's territory in accordance with the principles in which we all believe.

The prime minister's representative, Minister Bahij Tabbarah, said the integration ties with Syria are above all accords and charters. He expressed the hope that Imam al-Sadr's principles will be our guide.

The Amal Movement's speech was delivered by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri. He spoke about the recent Israeli aggression, its aims both domestically and regionally, and the national response to the results of this aggression in cooperation with Syria. He called on the Arab countries to extend aid to Lebanon to enable it to hold out, especially since Israel is continuing its war on Lebanon, although it halted the war recently because its calculations proved to be incorrect.

Speaker Birri pointed out several goals to be achieved. They are:

1. Strengthening the Lebanese Army to enable it to carry out its duty of defense because the Army represents resistance and security.

2. Enhancing resistance in the political and cultural spheres as a Lebanese option that cannot be forsaken. He said: We have seen with our own eyes what happens when a homeland is abandoned.

3. Opening additional credits for the South Council and all other councils and institutions so that compensation will cover shops, furniture, crops, and production facilities; raising the amount of compensation to refurbish housing units; and discussing the possibility of paying compensation for industrial and agricultural institutions if they cease operations because of acts of aggression.

4. Extending financial loans to farmers in all areas and vocational centers inside and outside the villages on the front line.

5. Arranging the state's priorities, starting with backing the state's service departments in the south and Western al-Biqa' with working teams and equipment, especially those needed for renovating and maintaining the infrastructure.

6. Implementing all programs through the state departments that have been defined for many years in the south and al-Biqa', where prohibited crops are banned. He asked: Then why are legal crops not encouraged?

Birri noted that these goals will confront the open battle with Israel and we will try to make the government approve them. He called for consolidating democracy, which means respect for the Constitution and rule of law and guaranteeing citizen's rights; freedom of speech and political, trade, and social formations; and freedom of candidacy, voting, opposition, and boycotting.

He said that Lebanon should be the home of democracy because it represents a lasting guarantee for peace and internal security. He added that work should continue to reinforce the defense institution with manpower and equipment, based on a national military service covering everyone without paying money for exemption, privileges, or political considerations, as well as building security institutions.

Birri pointed out that media freedom is sacred because anyone who cannot bear a word cannot be democratic. He called for the need to abolish political sectarianism through allegiance to the homeland. Political sectarianism, he said, comprised a mixture of monopolists and perversive people who carried out misleading media campaigns to use the sects as (?sand bags) to defend their rights. He noted that abolishing sectarianism will lead to further domestic solidarity and closure of every loophole through which the enemy infiltrates.

He said: Everything will remain threatened if we continue to miss the opportunities. We have paid a dear price as a result of the Camp David Accords. What I fear most is what is currently being planned for the region after Gaza and Jericho. Everything will be threatened. Will we now pay the bills for homelands?

King Husayn Arrives in Damascus For Talks

Al-Asad, King Hold Closed Meeting

JN3108151293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan held a meeting at the People's Palace after the arrival of King Husayn in Damascus at noon today.

On the Syrian side, the meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Royal Court Chief Dr. Khalid al-Karki, and His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad.

The meeting was followed by a closed meeting between his excellency the president and His Majesty King Husayn.

His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal arrived in Damascus at noon today. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who received him at the airport.

Agreement 'Surprise' to Jordan, Syria

JN3108175793 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1738 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of Jordan left Damascus at 1815 today. [passage omitted]

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn resumed their talks in a closed meeting after the luncheon His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad hosted in honor of his majesty.

The discussion during the talks between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Majesty King Husayn dealt with a review of the state of affairs in the region and in the Arab arena. The Middle East peace process was also discussed from all aspects in light of recent developments. The two sides discussed the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, which came as a surprise to the two countries and on which there was no coordination with the Arab parties.

Palestinian, Israeli Teams 'Surprised' by Accord

JN3108184993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Palestine broadcast: "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] Brothers on the road to revolution and liberation: While all press reports say that a Palestinian-Israeli agreement that starts with the implementation of autonomy in Gaza and Jericho first is on the verge of being signed in the hours to come, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has announced that the Palestinian delegation is negotiating to reach a comprehensive agreement. He said: We are discussing all possibilities, and we will not accept an agreement on Gaza and Jericho unless it is in line with our declared stand on the regaining of the occupied territories.

'Abd-al-Shafi added: We will not say no if the question of Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho is proposed to us. But 'Abd-al-Shafi cautioned against premature predictions.

What the official Palestinian, Israeli, and U.S. sources have reported on the version of an agreement that was reached at a secret meeting between Shim'on Peres and PLO officials under Norwegian hospitality means is that the documents pertaining to a solution on the Palestinian-Israeli track are ready for signature.

It appears that not only the Palestinian delegation was surprised by the agreement. Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks, was also suprised, and this made him tender his resignation. However, Rabin asked him to withdraw his resignation and leave for Washingtron to attend the 11th round.

Press Comments on Israeli Stands, Arab Cohesion

JN0109091193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN editorializes on the peace process and the constants of a comprehensive solution, saying: While looking forward to the results of the 11th round of peace talks, hoping that they will be different from the results of previous rounds of talks, we cannot but reiterate anew that the ball is still in the Israeli court. Of course, optimism or pessimism over prospects for progress in this round of talks is contingent upon the proposals and ideas Israeli delegations might bring to the peace talks.

TISHRIN adds: On the eve of the 11th round of peace talks, Yitzhaq Rabin and other Israeli officials have not hesitated to say that they will neither abandon settlements, nor withdraw from Arab territories, nor recognize the Palestinian people's national rights. Even worse, they said that Israeli sovereignty over the occupied territories will remain in place. This means that the Israelis have continued to hold on to their well-known positions, which oppose a just and comprehensive solution, and that they are not carrying anything new to the 11th round of talks. They are thus demonstrating an inclination to resort to maneuvers, evasion, and deception to keep the negotiations revolving in a vicious circle.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Peace is indivisible. It must be just and comprehensive. Such peace must restore Arab territories. This is enshrined in the resolutions of international legitimacy, which called for a comprehensive

solution. Hence, any talk of separate deals or partial settlements cannot achieve peace, nor can it make a true, durable, and viable peace.

TISHRIN says: Undoubtedly, the Arabs' concern for just and comprehensive peace stems from their eagerness to see the entire region experience stability. Peace is indivisible, and so is occupation. Hence, any Israeli claims of concern about peace while clinging to a position which stipulates that settlements will remain in place, and that Israel will retain its sovereignty over some or all occupied territories reflects a decision to circumvent the constants and components of peace.

TISHRIN adds: Had it actually been serious about achieving just and comprehensive peace, Israel would have acted without delay to meet the requirements of peace, foremost among which is commitment to withdrawal from the occupied territories, as provided for in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: Peace is not sweet words, nor is it a deceptive and sugar-coated talk. It is the outcome of a practical and responsible position. Wagers on anything other than this would fail to bear any fruit, and prove to be misleading. This has been proven by the past 10 rounds of talks, which were useless, because Israel was wagering on delusions, and also because Israeli calculations always ran into facts that cannot be hidden with a sieve. Israel must remember that peace is the antithesis of occupation. After all, there can be no peace as long as the occupation is maintained.

Under the headline "Our Settlement Constants," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Now that the meetings of the 11th round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks have been started in Washington, it is only natural for us to note that progress on any track or any front is contingent upon a change in the Israeli mind-set, and also upon certain convictions on the part of Israeli leaders regarding the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Such progress also hinges on compliance with the terms of reference agreed upon for the peace process and the Madrid conference. It also depends on a Israel's willingness to implement the relevant resolutions of international legitimacy and the UN Security Council, in particular. Moreover, Israel must recognize the Arabs' rights to their usurped territories.

AL-THAWRAH says it is impossible for the Arabs to concede a single grain of Arab territory, or a single Arab right. It notes Syria's adherence to pan-Arab constants and to a comprehensive solution on all fronts. The Arabs, the paper notes, will not accept any solution that undermines our rights or our full sovereignty over the Golan. The political battle we are waging is difficult. Hence, it is important for us to convince the U.S. cosponsor to honor its commitments and pledges and make the Israelis accept peace and meet its requirements.

Under the headline "Peace is an Arab Option That Israel Continues to Reject," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Peace is not an Israeli option. It is an Arab option. At the same time, it is an urgent international demand, particularly in this volatile and strategic part of the world. The region might come closer to peace and stability. However, this would not reflect Israeli convictions in this regard, given that it has continued to defy the wishes of the international community throughout the past 46 years. This region is vital and crucially important for entrenching world peace. Nonetheless, it might also disturb world peace, and bring about serious dangers.

AL-BA'TH adds: The international community is now aware of all these facts. Israel alone has continued to oppose efforts to achieve peace, using all conceivable unethical methods to perpetuate its aggression against the Arabs and maintain its occupation of Arab territories. For, throughout the past 10 rounds of peace talks, Israeli negotiators attempted to undermine and torpedo the peace option. However, the attempts by Zionist leaders to provoke the Arabs have failed. The quiet Arab demeanor has remained a weapon the Arabs have used in the face of Zionist bloodletting. This has prompted influential world states to act and work against the Israeli approach, which is marked by procrastination, prevarication, and defiance of the international will.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Arab gains are always made possible when unity and cohesion mark their positions and conduct. The Arabs are always required to beware of Zionist treachery, and also to beware of Israeli tactics, which always seek to sow disunity and divisions within Arab ranks. The Zionists want to make Arab rapprochement impossible.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: It must be reiterated that the pan-Arab issue requires a comprehensive pan-Arab action as well as a joint Arab effort so Israel may not deal a treacherous blow to any party, and so the Israelis may not fragment Arab ranks, and consequently swallow up Arab rights and perpetuate their occupation.

Al-Asad, Lebanon's al-Hirawi Discuss Current Issues

JN3108192993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call this evening from His Excellency Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon during which talks dealt with current Arab issues.

Afghanistan

Two Groups Sign 'Permanent Cease-Fire' Agreement

LD3108175793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] As a result of negotiations conducted today, the Ettehad-e Eslami-e Afghanistan [Islamic Union of Afghanistan] and the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan] have agreed that as of 1800 this afternoon a permanent cease-fire will come into effect between the two organizations. If irresponsible people and warmongers violate this act and breach the cease-fire, an appointed commission will identify it and it will be duly punished.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan considers the cease-fire agreement of the two jihadi organisationsa to be a responsible and positive step for the stability of the Islamic regime and will not spare any cooperation and effort for the agreement to be implemented.

Arsala Meets Envoys, Notes Potential Assistance

LD3108182293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] The esteemed Amin Arsala, foreign minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met in his office this morning with Sotorios Mousouris, special UN envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan. He came to Kabul in a delegation that also includes U.S. Ambassador in Islamabad John Monjo; Sir Nicholas Barrington, British high commissioner to Pakistan; Philip Knight, Australian high commissioner in Pakistan; [words indistinct].

At the meeting, which was also attended by esteemed Deputy Foreign Minister Hamed Karzay, esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala recalled with appreciation the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and charity organizations of the friendly countries to the people of Afghanistan. He added that an improvement in the current situation in the country is an unseparable part of the country's political and military affairs. Fortunately, fruitful efforts toward the creation of understanding between the involved forces are continuing and the relative stability is an indication of the improved current situation in the country.

Esteemed Arsala said that for peace and stability to be established all over the country, the international friends of Afghanistan could, in an effective way, play a fundamental role in the process of peace and security. The distancing of Afghanistan's international friends, however, also causes a lack of progress in restoring peace and stability. Under the present condihions, our friends could help in those regions where there is security. I can say with full confidence that the process of normalizing the situation and reconstructing Afghanistan would proceed easily, he said.

The delegation, after assessing its work projects, expressed happiness over the existing relative security in the country and assured the Afghan foreign minister of the cooperation, assistance, and every sort of effort by the United Nations and other international charities and nongovernmental organizations toward the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

According to another report, a luncheon reception was given in honor of the delegation by Esteemed Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala. Esteemed Public Health Minister Mohammad Amin Fatemi, esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs and deputy foreign minister, Esteemed Hamed Karzay, and a number of high-ranking officials from the Foreign Ministry also took part.

India

Indo-Israeli Military Relations Examined

BK2708104793 Delhi INDIAN DEFENCE REVIEW in English July 93 pp 45-51

[Text] As a nation-state, Israel is young and is limited by geographic factors and meagre natural resources and is largely dependent upon various forms of political, economic and military support from outside. Yet for well over two decades it has carved out a special place for itself and has emerged as the most important power in the Middle East and its security environment. Israel's historical evolution and achievements since 1948 led to conflicting and contradictory assessments and perceptions. More often than not they are either biased adulation or outright condemnation. Reality however lies between these two extremes and Israel is as good as or as bad as any other state in the world and has its share of successes and failures. A meaningful understanding of Israel should not only be balanced but also dispassionate and any assessment of its military should be based on this premise. Failure to do so would lead to unrealistic conclusions and illusions. The birth of Israel was shrouded in controversy, bloodshed and prolonged persecution. While a number of countries supported the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine in 1947, the opposition was also equally vehement and strong. For a variety of reasons a whole range of non- Western countries had taken an antagonistic position towards Israel and its acceptance into the international community has been slow and painful. Israel's political, economic and diplomatic ability tp overcome these hurdles was limited. In order to circumvent the inherent disadvantages and to promote its vital national interest and influence, Israel has adopted an unique means: military-cum-security ties.

Military which occupies an important role in the Israeli society also became an important and probably the most successful foreign policy instrument. Through various forms of military relations, it established new political contacts, strengthened the existing relations or renewed

old ones. Israel's proximity with a state is often measured by the depth of the military relations and in a number of cases in Asia and Africa, its diplomatic successes were facilitated by military relations and China is the latest example of this. In some cases military-cum-intelligence assistance did not require diplomatic relations. Therefore when the end of the Cold War saw the establishment of diplomatic ties between Israel and numerous countries, security consideration became an important factor. And India is no exception to this rule.

But the prolonged absence of diplomatic relations and limited interactions with Israel often lead to two distinct possibilities: Israel has nothing to offer or Israel has the cure for all our security needs and necessities. Neither of the attitudes is conducive or real. Any meaningful relations between the two countries in the military arena would depend upon a careful, close and at times critical Indian appraisal of Israel's abilities, experiences and above all practices. Proper and meaningful lessons could be learnt from its actions, strategies and performances. A modest attempt is made here to examine the nature and scope of a possible security relations between the two countries and their inherent limitations. A balanced and critical approach becomes a pre-requisite for a fruitful and beneficial military relations with Israel.

One can divide the possible areas of cooperation into two broad categories viz., weapons and technologies; and strategies and concepts. In order to appreciate the larger security dimensions proper political implications should also be taken into consideration.

The success of Israel's weapons and systems can largely be attributed to their performance in active combat. In its bid to maintain Israel's 'qualitative superiority' over the Arabs, the United States has been supplying Israel with latest weapons and systems. But the crucial difference is often made by Israel's ability to adapt these systems. While some of these innovations are conceptual, others are in the realm of more advanced avionics. Among its vast inventories one can identify the following specific categories as possible avenues for an Indo-Israeli cooperation.

Soviet/Russian Weapons: Upgrading of Soviet/Russian weapons has been the most promising and lucrative area of attention. Since the June war of 1967 Israel had captured a whole range of Soviet weapons from its Arab neighbours. This inventory has helped Israel to identify the potential strengths and weaknesses of the Soviet systems and to develop effective counter measures. Over the years Israel has converted this military advantage into a lucrative commercial enterprise and offered to upgrade weapons and systems supplied as well as operated by the former Eastern Europe.

Its prolonged dependence on Moscow has made India vulnerable to the on-going turmoil in the former Soviet Union. Reports emanating from various quarters project an extremely gloomy picture. Resource crunch makes a major military modernization an unrealistic proposition in the foreseeable future. India's short-term defence preparedness therefore depends upon its ability to obtain the crucial spare parts and to upgrade the exiting forces and optimize them. In both cases, Israel is an attractive target and if handled with prudence and foresight it could weli be the cheapest option.

In examining this Israeli ability, one should also remember the growing Jewish immigration from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and this flow of highly educated population would contribute immensely to Israel's economy. While Russia is preventing the free immigration of Jews who had served in important positions in the defence establishments or refusniks, the same is not true of others like Ukraine. Their induction into the military establishment would be of far reaching consequence for Israel's ability to upgrade and modernize the Russian weapons.

In a number of areas Israel has attained a leadership position as given below:

Remotely Piloted Vehicles (RPVs)

Israel which had introduced the RPVs or Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAVs) in 1976 has a near total monopoly in this field and according to one estimate controls over 95 percent of the global market. In spite of competition from various other countries including the US, this position is unlikely to change in the near future.

Used in intelligence gathering, photo surveillance and as means of attacking radar equipments and other targets, the RPVs can be used both in wartime and during peace. The Searcher—third qeneration of UAV used by Israeli armed forces—for example, is designed for high altitude surveillance and can be deployed upto 24 hours. India's hostile mountainous and inaccessible border areas and the smuggling-prone vast coastline demand effective surveillance and its needs are well beyond the current indigenous efforts in that direction.

Avionics

Since 1970s Israel has given special attention to electronic warfare and much of these efforts are indigenous. Its expertise lies both in the software as well as operational methods. Its limited production capabilities and domestic market led Israel to focus its attention on hi-tech areas and much of its state-owned and private military industries revolve around developing and manufacturing avionics and radar and surveillance systems. The Lavi fighter project boosted its avionics drive and following the cancellation of the programme, the avionics developed for Lavi became an important aspect of Israel's technological exports. Through careful planning this technology was offered to countries as diverse as China, Taiwan and South Africa and one should not rule out the possibility of India being added to this long list. Even if actual technology transfer does not take place, the offers should reveal the possible transfers that have taken place between Israel and China. On the passive side Israel has the ability to monitor various electronic

transmissions between the Arab battle units. For instance it was able follow the movements of the Iraqi armoured units a few hours before their actual entry into Kuwait in August 1991. Israel has also developed various other equipments for specific needs and they include night vision gadgets, special evacuation and rescue techniques and devices . In numerous natural disasters like floods, earthquakes and landslides they have proved their utility.

Weapons Development

Thirdly an Indo-Israeli military cooperation would be beneficial in areas where there is an ongoing research in India and they include the Main Battle Tank Arjun, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and Integrated Guided Missile Project. Much of Israeli armoured warfare is geared to a swift and decisive operation in hostile desert conditions. Till actual combat experience any comparison between Arjun and other tanks, let alone Merkava would be speculative. Yet preliminary assessments do not speak well about Arjun's ability to protect its crew members. Merkava's long battle field experience coupled with extremely hot and hostile desert conditions under which they operate should provide useful insights and help overcome some of the current shortcomings. Considering the fact that even a trail took more than a decade to materialize a serious cooperation with Israel would substantially reduce if not eliminate hardships. The same applies to the missile programme. Israel had entered the missile age rather early and its first ballistic missile Jericho-l became operational in 1973. Since then it has developed and deployed a whole range of conventional as well as non-conventional missiles. Its expertise in cruise missile technology, for example, helped China to modify the CSS-2 Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBMs). While developing various offensive missiles, Israel is also developing anti-missile defence systems and the on- going US-Israeli Arrow project is a classic example. Largely funded by Washington this is expected to be an effective defence against the growing missile proliferation in this region.

It should, however, be remembered that Israel's adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) would seriously hamper any missile-related cooperation between India and Israel; more so when the US is adopting an unfriendly posture on this issue. Yet according to widespread speculations and intelligence assessments Israel did transfer Patriot-related technologies to China. Even the absence of concrete evidence did not prevent senior officials from pursuing the allegations. The central question therefore is: Does India command similar leverage with Israel by making itself as vital as China?

These weapons and technologies can be obtained through different means. In the short run, outright imports should be preferable or assembly plants can be set up in India. If exports become a serious option, joint ventures are inevitable. But to be cost effective and strategically important, cooperation in research and development in certain hi-tech areas such as missiles and space technology would be prudent. Or an appropriate marriage between India's demands and Israeli expertise is a worthwhile proposition.

While weapons and technologies are more visible areas of cooperation, a careful examination and adaptation of Israel's practices would yield far reaching benefits to India. This has one distinct advantage: Israel's strategies and concepts can be studied through individual or institutional academic endeavours. It does not require the active participation of both the governments and hence can have a wider political acceptance. One can identify five such areas discussed below.

Terrorism

In spite of the inherent difficulties of definition it is fair to admit that, in recent years, terrorism has become a major threat to India. Its somewhat late entry into India did not make it less lethal. A number of countries, especially from the Developing World, have serious and legitimate differences with the Israeli definition of terrorism and its attitude towards the Palestinian problem. But neither Israel nor the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is free of innocent blood. Keeping this in mind one can look at the operational aspects of its anti-terrorist policy and draw appropriate lessons. Various punitive measures like house sealing or demolition may not be suitable for India. Yet its overall crowd control methods (rubber bullets for example) deserve careful consideration. Army's handling of the Intifadah and the number of Palestinians killed by the security forces should be seen in the context of the number of violent incidents. According to army estimates, since December 1987 there were well over 13,000 violent incidents in the Occupied Territories; should this occur in India, what would be the casualty figures?

Israel's relatively impressive success against terrorism is largely due to its intelligence gathering ability and wide-ranging preventive and punitive measures. All the major wings of its intelligence establishment—Mossad (external intelligence), Shin Beth (internal intelligence) and military intelligence—have accumulated an impressive track record.

Their occasional notorious image never inhibited potential customers and at one time or the other a number of Arab countries were helped by Israeli intelligence agencies.

While 'raw' intelligence is an important avenue for Indo-Israeli cooperation, much more serious arena lies in operational and technological part of intelligence gathering. In Humint, its experience is unparalleled and can significantly enhance India's position. Air piracy for instance, is a major terrorist instrument against Israel and its interests in the West; yet the last successful attack against an Israeli aircraft was in 1970s. So is its track record in protecting vital installations and ensuring personal security of important personalities. Above all, these targets are protected with least visibility.

Another notable aspect of Israel's combat against terrorism is its success in drastically reducing, if not eliminating, cross border infiltration. Like India it is also confronted with infiltration from desert, mountainous terrain, valley and from the sea. While the actual numbers are limited, any infiltration is considered a serious security threat and as such a comparison with the quantitatively large infiltrations faced by India won't be improper. Through effective electronic fencing and well planned and trained human monitoring, Israel has curtailed this menace. Following the June war of 1967, it had built broad parallel roads along the frontiers and these roads actively cater to larger military and security needs.

The fall of the Eastern Europe has seriously affected India's military and in certain crucial areas made it vulnerable. While looking for alternative sources of secured and affordable supplies, self-sufficiency alone can ensure longer term security. Israel also faced this unenviable and traumatic situation soon after the spectacular military victory in 1967. Infuriated by its preemptive strikes French President Charles de Gaulle immediately imposed an arms embargo against Israel. Until that time France was Israel's major security partner and much of its arms came from Paris. These strong ties could be traced directly to the Suez war of 1956. In the wake of severe criticism by the emerging Non-Aligned world, Israel's Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion remarked:

"From the standpoint of our existence...the friendship of one European country (i.e., France) which we have secured from July (1956) until the present (January 1957) is worth more than the opinions prevailing at this time among the Asiatic peoples..."

Israeli Prof. Shlomo Aronson argues that 'the main goal [preceding two words in italics] of the 1956 war...was to gain access to Frenchmade nuclear reactors'.

This alliance collapsed overnight in June 1967 and Paris even refused to honour its earlier commitments. Coming two decades after the holocaust and Western indifference to the human inferno Israel drew appropriate lessons. The French volte-face proved to be a blessing in disguise as it underscored Israel's vulnerability to outside manipulations and accelerated the drive for military self-sufficiency. Through various ingenious and at times dubious means, Israel was able to produce a whole range of essential systems and in certain areas like electronics, surveillance and improvisation has carved out a leadership role for itself. For example, in 1989 the US Defence Department identified that Israel has been engaging in 9 out of 22 technologies considered vital for America's long-term weapons' superiority. Israel has also been a principal non-American partner in the Ballistic Missile Defence Organization (BMDO)—formerly known as Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) or 'Star Wars' programme—and its partnership is considered important for the prevention of missile proliferation. Both the cancelled Lavi project and the on-going Arrow missile development are part of this self-sufficiency drive.

Arms Sales

Israel's drive for self-sufficiency was not easy. Not only did it have to produce up-to-date weapons and systems, it also had to respond to new threats. As the West was desperate to re-cycle the petro-dollars, the oil crisis of 1973 started a new arms race. In order to make its defence industries cost-effective, Israel had to produce in large numbers. With a small domestic market, exports became inevitable and very soon arms trade became the largest non-diamond source of foreign exchange earning.

Arms trade subsidized the defence industries and injected resources for further research and development. It also served as a crucial foreign policy instrument as Israel began to use arms sales and other forms of security assistance to enlarge its diplomatic influence. A number of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America have maintained some form of defence ties with Israel and soon it emerged as a reliable supplier of battle-tested weapons and technologies. Even India which established diplomatic ties only in January 1992, did not hesitate to seek Israeli military assistance in 1962 as well as in 1965.

A number of Indian defence industries are currently operating with extremely low production levels. While resource crunch is blamed for the malaise, such an approach is not viable in the long run. To make them cost effective and to reach optimum production levels, export-orientation becomes urgent and inevitable. The global arms market, however, is not encouraging and India needs to adapt some its industries to meet the new demands and targets. Due to the proliferation of suppliers it can't simply export its existing obsolete inventories. Unless resources are found elsewhere, arms exports become necessary to maintain the defence preparedness, to upgrade and modernize the armed forces and to maintain research and development for future security needs. Since arms exports pre-suppose a competition in the qualitatively improved market, innovation and improvisation become natural. The fact that Israel achieved much of its political leverage through military-cum- security relations, should not go unnoticed.

Strategic Parity

When Israel talks of parity, it does not refer to a military parity between itself and one or other neighbours. It has consistently sought a regional parity or a parity between the armed forces of Israel and that of all the countries which have the potential to be hostile to it. Even the Camp David agreement does not prevent Israeli scholars from including Egypt from the security calculation. At a political level Israel repeatedly and often consistently denies the concept of 'Arab unity' and highlights the inherent political differences and infighting between various rulers and states. In other words, an Arab military understanding and operation against Israel is possible even without a politically united Arab League! This otherwise debatable preposition has helped Israel to legitimize its drive for 'qualitative edge' over its 'quantitatively superior' adversaries in this region.

Though it faces similar regional situation, unlike the Jewish state, India has largely confined its attention towards Pakistan and seeks a military parity with Islamabad. By excluding China and adopting a narrower definition of regional security a large section of the intelligentsia and academic contribute to the government's Pakistan-centred security framework. Like the political leadership their threat perception is based upon the Chinese motives and protestations and not on the Chinese military potential. And Israel's regional orientation could provide an eye opener for a realistic strategic debate in India.

Israel considers 'Islamic fundamentalism' to be its principal security threat and much of its political, military and even academic attentions are focussed on this menace. To a limited extent India is also facing this problem while a more serious threat emanates from fundamentalism of every brand.

Israeli portrayal of fundamentalism, only of the Islamic brand, has a specific political purpose and a limited cooperation between the two countries should not be ruled out prematurely. Some of the sources like Iran, Pakistan, Sudan and Afghanistan do affect India's nterest and a narrow cooperation with Israel would be beneficial to India. But a total identification with Israel's definition of 'fundamentalism' and its modus operandi are neither necessary nor possible and may even be politically explosive.

Secondly both have an interest in preventing the non-conventional proliferation in the Middle East as they are likely to affect the regional security balance. The spread of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons in the Middle East is going to be a serious threat for both the countries. Development of long range missiles by countries such as Iran or the possession of intermediate range missiles by Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan's close ties with these countries are not to be ignored lightly. It should however be cautioned that the West had treated the Israeli proliferation differently. It is too naive to expect a similar treatment for India; but an understanding of the Israeli experience would strengthen India's position visa-vis the West and latter's political manoeuvres against India.

India's problems such as spare parts shortage are acute and alarming. In the long run 'cutting edges' means compromising security. Unlike 1962, present status of India in the international arena is not so comfortable. This resource crunch not only affects procurement process but also hampers various on-going research projects and long term planning. Demands are current and need immediate attention. Seen in this context, military ties with Israel have one distinct advantage: the Israeli recession .

The worldwide recession has also taken its toll in Israel's defence industry and a number of defence industries are drastically cutting down their labour force only to remain in business. For example in mid-1980s, Israeli arms industry directly employed 90,000 people but during 1990-92 the figure came down to 60,000. But the downward trend is yet to be arrested and every now and then new recovery plans are being floated by various firms and currently the Israel Aircraft Industry, the largest firm in the country is floating a new package deal which would mean 1,500 more dismissals. As Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin plainly admitted in November 1992: "The nations of the world are not buying weapons anymore, and there is no place to sell the weapons to.... There is no alternative, the world isn't buying weapons anymore, and we'll have to get used to this difficult situation."

The 'difficult situation' means 3,000 job losses in Israel Military Industry (IMI).

It should also be mentioned that many of the defence industries are trying to stay in business by targeting the civilian markets. In 1992 the then Defence Minister Moshe Arens advised the military industries to target 30 percent of their business to civilian products. But high labour costs associated with defence industries and the small domestic market make things more complicated. If one takes this conversion drive into consideration, the actual loss of labour force in the defence industries would be much larger. The cancellation of Lavi project, frequent budget cuts, reduced international tension and hence demand, the end of the Cold War and the subsequent availability of huge former Soviet stocks, proliferation of new suppliers and the clandestine trade following the disintegration of the Soviet Union have all contributed to this situation. The democratization process and the end of civil wars in various Latin American countries, Israel's important market, meant lesser or no demand. And above all there is a recession in the West.

This situation gives a tremendous advantage to India. While India is desperate for spare parts and to upgrade its forces, Israel is desperate for demands. This coupled with the latter's inability to offer deferred payments or barter arrangements should be exploited well for optimum results. Any failure to understand tue recession faced by the Israeli arms industry would weaken the Indian position and contribute to former's bargaining position.

A meaningful military relationship with Israel presupposes a realistic appreciation of the following limitations.

Political Handicaps:

Israel is a controversial aspect of India's foreign policy and absence of any formal relations for well over four decades amply underline this. Given India's strong historical, political and economic ties with the Arab and Islamic world, any close ties with Israel especially in the realm of security is bound to be politically costly if not impossible. Already there is growing criticism over the 'haste' with which relations are being pursued and security dimension would only add fuel to the fire. India's refusal to appoint a military attache to Israel should be seen in this context. Israel's security doctrines and policies which do receive appreciation from the military

leadership are not viewed kindly by the political echelons. And relations with Israel's security and intelligence agencies are bound to attract undue attention from Pakistan and thereby the Arab and Islamic world.

But a far more serious difficulty lies in India's inapt handling of its overall Middle East policy. For years it has made Israel as the central focus of its policy towards this region and projected the absence of relations as its principal political instrument. Yet it failed to transform its historical support to the Palestinian cause into various economic, political and other linkages. Even before the Indo-Israeli normalization, its influence in the region was marginal at best. Notwithstanding the numerous visits to India by the PLO Chairman Yassir 'Arafat, the Palestinians, for example, hardly mention India in their political declarations and the same is true of other states. In the absence of any serious political influence, India can't further its interests in Middle East. Normalization provided an opportunity to seek balance and develop some influence. This does not appear to be the case.

[Text]

Responsible But Ineffective:

India's influence on Israel is no better. Unlike China, India never threatened Israel's security through arms exports. Ever since arm exports became an attractive proposition in late 1970s, Middle East has been China's major customer and it had no hesitation in supplying massive non-conventional arms to Israel's enemies and Beijing is unlikely to abandon its lucrative arms diplomacy . Ironically this 'irresponsible' behaviour makes China a much more attractive target for Israel. In order to slow down the Chinese arms sales, Israel offers various technological assistances including military. North Korea is the latest example for this 'effective irresponsibility'. India on the other hand was more 'responsible' and even during its long anti-Israel period, it never directly threatened the Jewish state. Its support to the PLO was political rather than military. This in real terms means lesser Indian leverage over Israel. In other words, a few arms' supply to Middle East would have fetched much attention and influence for India than prolonged, consistent yet meaningless public statements. Their value is academic rather than political.

The U.S. Factor:

Both as a supplier of technology as well as the major customer the US plays an important role in Israeli military industry. Some of its export items like Kfir [preceding word in italics] aircraft, or various missiles have critical US components and hence require latter's concurrence for export. In 1991 Israel was brought under the Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR] and this seriously limits Israel's ability to export sensitive technologies to India. Its acute dependency upon the US for economic, political and military support limits Israel's ability to take an independent role and any major technology transfer from Israel to India would invariably require Washington's consent. In short, New Delhi's ability to circumvent the American technological sanction through Israel is limited.

Conscious of its security situation and limited political influence abroad, Israel often carries out seemingly contradictory foreign policy moves. Lavi technology for example was offered to Beijing as well as Taipei. The Sri Lankan armed forces and the Tamil militants were simultaneously trained by Israeli security agencies. In other words, Israel has compartmentalized its bilateral relations and in order to further its foreign policy goals, is willing to deal with as many countries as possible. This sometimes means offending others. Israel will, therefore, easily exploit the indifferent official Indian position on the Chinese threat and continue to maintain and justify its military relations with Beijing and yet seek new and lucrative markets in India. The traditional official preoccupation with Pakistan is also another incentive for this compartmentalized policy. Itwould be naive to anticipate that by establishing military relations with Israel, New Delhi can influence former's position on India's security concerns.

In numerous ways Israel is rather unique and therefore its military successes can't be reproduced or adopted in India. The long history of persecution and hardship have generated a rare sense of unity and national purpose. Numerous political differences aside, there is a strong national consensus on vital security issues. It is a highly industrialized and westernized state. Much of the technological innovation and adaptation in the military is due to the high standard of education. Even though the Jews come from all over the world, the Jewishness of the state gives a homogeneous character to Israel. Its success in the military and intelligence field is largely due to the fact that on grounds of security, the Arabs are excluded from these agencies. It is impossible to replicate such a segregation in a multi-national, multi-religious and multiethnic country like India.

The long absence of ties has seriously hampered a better Indian appreciation of Israel and its potentials. Both the proponents and opponents of diplomatic ties failed to adopt a balanced and realistic position. This tendency is likely to affect the debate for a security-related ties with Israel. As a result either side would simply absorb its respective inputs and without a critical examination, is likely to argue that Israel has the solution for all the ills of India or it has nothing to offer. Neither approach is realistic. Unless Israeli abilities are studied with an open as well as critical mind, closer ties especially in the realm of security would be unrealistic.

Therefore, in a number of security areas India and Israel can establish a meaningful and beneficial relationship. In the short run, this would involve weapons supply and technology transfer. Once a working relation has emerged, the cooperation can be extended to joint production and research. But a more meaningful benefit would accrue from a close and careful study of Israeli strategies and experiences. Since they do not require

active Israeli collaborations, they are less likely to be controversial. Any long term security relations with Israel wiil have to be based on a more realistic and assertive Indian Middle East policy. Mere statements and visits do not create influence. Israeli military industries are facing a serious recession and most of them need new orders only to stay in business and a proper appreciation of this situation enhances India's influence. Israel's military relations with other countries need careful scrutiny as some of them, China for example, would be detrimental to its security. Its past record as a 'responsible' actor has not created any significant influence for India and therefore when New Delhi peruses an active arms exports policy, Middle East should be an important target. Probably then both the Arabs and Israel would take India rather seriously.

Iran

Commentary Criticizes Possible Israel-PLO Agreement

LD3108211393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The entire Western Bank and Gaza Strip will observe a general strike today as a sign of the Palestinian nation's wrath over the resumption of the Arab-Israel negotiations. The wide-scale protest is being shown in response to a call by 10 Palestinian combatant groups which, through a statement, have called on the Palestinian delegation to boycott the talks.

The 11th round of the Arab-Israeli talks is opening in Washington today at a time when the memory of the Zionist regime's warplanes' devastating attacks on Lebanon during the recent weeks is still fresh in the minds. The attack severely targeted Lebanon, which is a party in the negotiations with the Zionist regime, leveling thousands of residential areas and killing hundreds of civilians.

But the prospects of the 11th round of talks and the fate of the previous 10 rounds are worth pondering. At the conclusion of each of the 10 rounds of talks between Arabs and Israel, which were held with great hue and propaganda cry, the world people only witnessed the expression of regret and the announcement of deadlocks.

However, what separates the 11th round from the previous 10 rounds of negotiations is a likelihood of the signing of an agreement between the PLO and the Zionist regime. If signed, the agreement will encompass a kind of limited autonomy for the Palestinians to run the preliminary affairs of the region of Gaza and Arihah [Jericho].

Analysts say pivotal talks will be held between the Palestinian delegation and the Zionist regime in the 11th round of negotiations, especially that this time the Palestinian delegation will officially conduct direct talks with the Israeli officials in the capacity of the PLO representatives. Though despite the several secret meetings of the Zionist regime has so far held with the PLO representatives, it has clearly rejected full withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and Arihah within any agreement with the PLO.

Actually, on the basis of the likely agreement between the PLO and the Zionist regime, the Palestinians will only be allowed to run the internal affairs of Gaza and Arihah, and the Jewish settlements in the region will continue to remain under the control of the Israeli troops. Further, the Palestinians will not be given the full responsibility to control the linking roads and bridges over River Jordan.

The Palestinian factions opposing the trend of the Arab-Israeli talks say that the implementation of the plan by Israel not only does not reflect the peace-seeking intentions of the Zionist regime, but it speaks of a trick which secures the interests of that regime. This is so because on the basis of the autonomy, the Palestinians will not be given any control over the land, and even the underground resources and water in the region will be controlled by Israel. Besides, the partial withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza and Arihah can only be considered as replacement of the troops that are going to remain in the region. On the other hand, it is already clear what issues are to be discussed during the Lebanese and Syrian delegation talks with the Zionist regime.

The Zionist regime prime minister's emphasis on the nonwithdrawal from the entire occupied region of Golan and making the withdrawal from south Lebanon conditional to the disarmament of the resistance movement, plus the conditions which do not fall within the framework of the Security Council Resolution 425, have all led the world opinion to ask whether the Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 have any place in the 11th round of the Arab-Israel negotiations.

Undoubtedly, during this round what is evident is this: that the Zionist regime will try to trample the rights of the Palestinian nation and reinforce its own position. But what reaction the world opinion and the Muslim nation of the region will show against the Zionist regime's conspiracies is a question, the answer to which is already clear, and that is: Doubtlessly, the resistance in occupied Palestine will continue and so will the wrath of the nations over the Zionist regime's cruelties.

Oil Ministry Denies INA Report on Deal With Israel

LD3108170693 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA—The Oil Ministry on Tuesday [31 August] refuted as "sheer lies" a report of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) from Cairo alleging that Iran and Israel had made an oil deal.

Iran has not even entered into negotiations with any oil company which does not respect the Islamic Republic's embargo against the Zionist regime since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the ministry said in a statement. It said Iran in all its oil agreements with foreign companies sets a pre-condition that its crude should not be delivered to the Zionist regime, and if necessary Iran's national oil company directly monitors the unloading of Iranian crude at ports of destination.

Turkish Response to Iranian Shelling Reported

NC0109104193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] According to reports from the party committee of the (?second) precinct of Kordestan, many peshmergas and cadres of the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] in Iran in the areas of Sama', (Shpiran), Salmas, Anzal, and Kenar carried out victorious operations against the regime's forces, paralyzing the antihuman forces of the enemy and rendering them unable to display a timely reaction.

The regime's lackey forces were not brave enough to emerge from their hideouts and resorted to shelling the areas from a distance. Soon, hundreds of mortar shells and Katyusha fire began to rain on the toiling people, damaging their fields and pastures.

The heavy shelling by the regime reportedly left the people with heavy losses and several innocent residents of the villages of (Fiareh) and (Barazeh) were wounded.

The regime's forces attacked parts of the border areas of Turkish Kurdistan with cannon and mortar fire. They encountered a reaction by the Turkish forces, who subjected the regime's border outpost to heavy artillery fire. Seeing the Turkish forces' reaction, the regime's antihuman forces hastily made efforts to (?placate) them and sent some of their commanders to the common border areas to apologize and speak to the Turkish commanders. But the antipopular forces were trapped in the area mined by the Turkish forces and were wounded.

Sudan Seen Determined Not To Relinquish 'Struggle'

NC3008133193 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 21 Aug 93 p 12

[Commentary by Hasan Fathi: "Sudan in the Vise of The United States and Egypt"]

[Text] Since 'Umar 'Abd-al Bashir took power in Sudan after a military coup and instituted the Islamic shari'ah, he has encountered a plethora of difficulties, which still hold the Khartoum regime in a vise.

Sudan is grappling with the rebels in the south. On its border with Egypt, it has the problems of Hala'ib. Internationally, it is being subjected to U.S. pressure. All these factors have combined to put 'Umar 'Abd-al Bashir's regime in dire straits. The objective of these pressures is to strengthen the opposing faction and motivate it to topple the regime or convince Khartoum to follow U.S. policies.

The situation in Sudan is such that every effort by the regime to protect its territorial integrity or to defend its popular gains encounters a violent reaction from the West and its allies and attempts are made to change Sudan's policies.

For years, Sudan and Egypt were considered close allies and had extensive relations, but today Khartoum and Cairo appear to be enemies. In addition to raising the Hala'ib issue border disputes with Sudan, Egypt has also embarked on support for the rebels in the south. Similarly, the United States, which has included Sudan on its list of supporters of terrorism, because it considers Sudan involved in the New York explosion, is calling for revoking the Islamic shari'ah, implementing a federal system, and giving the south the right to decide its own fate. The U.S. television channel CNN announced that the United States may even impose economic sanctions on Sudan.

These provocative acts with regard to Sudan are taking place simply because Sudan insists on enforcing the Islamic shari'ah and does not wish to be drawn into the orbit of the U.S. allies. This is why it faces miscellaneous restrictions and why there are fears that the United States will use a UN mandate and, on the pretext of providing famine relief, launch a military deployment in that country.

In the past few months, the United States has leveled many accusations against Sudan. If it continues its Islamic policy, it will face numerous difficulties. This is the fate of all independent and nonaligned countries.

In the garb of the new world order, the United States is using the UN Security Council mandate to pressure every regime that opposes its policies. These regimes are forced to succumb to the wishes of the White House; if they don't, so many problems are created that they are dragged to the brink of decline.

Sudan is the largest country in Africa and has a favorable geographical location. For years, it was administered by the U.S. allies. The differences between the United States and Sudan erupted when Khartoum adopted an independent policy. The pressures were initiated during Sadiq al-Mahdi's time, but have intensified because 'Umar 'Abd-al Bashir does not wish to become a U.S. pawn. This is why it has depended on the people's support to tackle the rebels in the south and domineering Egypt and the United States and has not compromised with them.

Such steadfastness and fortitude by Sudan in the face of these problems can transform the country into a thorn in the side of the enemies and scorch the seeds of conspiracy. You mustn't forget that the path to independence and nonalignment is fraught with problems including foreign intervention. The instigatory actions

by Egypt in Hala'ib or its support for the rebels in the south and economic sanctions are also among them. These measures aim to break the Sudanese resistance. But the Sudanese proved—as in the turbulent time of "Mehdi" against the British and General "Gordon"—that they are not weak willows who tremble and bend with the gales blowing from Cairo and Washington and that they will not relinquish their struggle. They also know that the price for steadfastness and resistance is territorial integrity and independence. If the United States and its allies take umbrage at the attitude adopted by Sudan, it is because they are well acquainted with this Sudanese trait.

Military Maneuvers Held in Marand Border Region

LD3108081693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] On the eve of Holy Defense Week, and in order to increase the combat capability of the armed forces, the brave men of the 21st Hamzeh Army Division carried out the Sahand-1 operational maneuvers in the Marand border region. According to the Central News Unit, a brigade of Azerbaijan's 21st Army Division, backed by the bomber-fighters of the 2d Fighter Base [Paygah-e Dovvom-e Shekari] and the Army Air Service's helicopters, clashed with an imaginary enemy in the course of nine operations and occupied the latter's positions.

The third stage of the Sahand-1 operational maneuvers were also carried out with the sacred codename of Ya Zahra—peace be upon her. At this stage of the maneuvers, the bomber-fighters of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force; the artillery unit of the infantry forces of Azerbaijan's 21st Hamzeh Army Division; the helicopters of the Army Air Service and the antichemical forces, performed their military operations and displayed their combat power.

Official on Steel, Oil Production, Water Shortage

LD3108123593 Tehran IRNA in English 1213 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Semnan, Aug. 31, IRNA—One million tons of steel was exported during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21), an official announced here Tuesday [31 August].

Head of the majlis commission for budget and planning Hojjat ol-Eslam Dorri Najafabadi said that the figure was a proof to the country's progress in steel industry during recent years.

Commenting on the achievements in other fields, he said that Arak refinery in the Central Province, with the capacity of 150,000 barrels per day, will be on stream within the next few days.

Turning to agricultural activities, he said that there was some 51 million hectares of agricultural land throughout the country but water shortage was the main bottleneck facing the sector.

He noted that some 160 billion cubic meters of water was being supplied annually but was mostly wasted due to the employment of obsolete irrigation methods.

Details Released on Arak Oil Refinery Production

LD3108124493 Tehran IRNA in English 1218 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 31, IRNA—Some rls. [rials] 100 billion, including dlrs. [dollars] 1.1 billion in foreign exchange, has been expended on the construction of the 7th Arak oil refinery in Central Province.

The capacity of the refinery is 150,000 barrels per day in the first stage which would be increased to 30,000 bpd in the second stage. Construction operation completed in a period of 38 months.

Other products of the refinery include liquid gas, petrol, unleaded petrol, aircraft fuel, gas oil, fuel oil, kerosene and gasoline.

The unit has some 1,000 member staff, 30 percent of whom are skilled workers and experts transferred from other oil refineries in the country.

It is the first oil refinery being constructed since the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979 by Italian and Japanese contractors under supervision of Iranian experts working for the Oil Ministry.

The value added of the refinery products amounts to dlrs. 709,000 a day or dlrs. 247 million annually, all current expenses being subtracted.

Based on its nominal capacity, the daily production capcity of the refinery in the first stage is 6,695 barrels of liquid gas, 11,032 barrels of petrol, 26,906 barrels of kerosene, 46,503 barrels of gasoline, 35,361 barrels of fuel oil, and 5,556 barrles of tar.

The refinery also produces 5,556 barrels per day of oil products needed by petrochemical plants.

Pakistan

Foreign Secretary's Talks in Washington Noted

BK3108145593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] In Washington, the foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar M. Khan, discussed with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Mrs. Robin Raphael various approaches to achieve the goal of nuclear nonproliferation, security, and stability in South Asia. The foreign secretary said Pakistan desires close and friendly relations with the United

States. He reiterated the need to overcome the restraints imposed on the relationship by the Pressler Amendment.

The issue of Pakistan's purchase from China of medium-range missiles was also discussed. The foreign secretary restated Pakistan's position that the imposition of U.S. sanctions was based on incorrect and inconclusive evidence about the supply of Chinese missiles. The supply is within the parameters of the Missile Technology Control Regime.

Foreign Minister on U.S. Sanctions, India Ties

BK0109054093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Pakistan would welcome a principled and even-handed U.S. policy toward South Asia. This was stated by Foreign Minister Abdus Sattar while talking to reporters in Islamabad yesterday. He said the recent dialogue between the two countries is a good beginning and that an in-depth discussion should take place in Washington so that the United States can understand Pakistan's point of view.

Referring to the recent U.S. sanctions against Pakistan and China over the supply of missiles, he said Pakistan acquired some missiles from China because of its security requirements, but that this acquisition did not in any way violate the limits of the Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR]. The foreign minister said that Pakistan has not started a regional arms race by acquiring these missiles. He said that it was necessary for Pakistan to acquire some missiles from China—within the limits of the MTCR—because of the threat of Scud missiles and the Indian missile manufacturing programs, which receive foreign help. He termed the sanctions against Pakistan and China over the question of missiles unfair and unwarranted.

On relations between Pakistan and India, the foreign minister said Pakistan wants to normalize its ties with India, but Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir and its refusal to give the right of self-determination to Kashmiris have created tension. He said Pakistan wanted to solve the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions and keeping the wishes of Kashmiris in view.

Qureshi Appeals to Groups To Refrain From Agitation

BK0109060693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Prime Minister Moin Qureshi has appealed to political leaders and traders to maintain the harmonious atmosphere and refrain from issuing appeals for agitations and strikes before the elections. In a statement in Islamabad yesterday, he said the government has made some difficult economic decisions that are in the country's long-term interests. The government is aware that these measures have placed a burden on the people and the prices of some commodities has risen. The prime minister said the government will, however, ensure that profiteers do not reap undue benefit, that the unwarranted price rise is withdrawn, and that those involved in this crime are punished. This has already been done in connection with wheat flour and edible oil. Moin Qureshi said that a special committee has been set up—comprising the deputy chairman of the Planning Commission and the chief secretaries of all four provinces—to work out a scheme to assist the poorer sections of society in fulfilling their basic needs by buying essential commodities at concessionary rates.

The prime minister asked the people to cooperate with the government in maintaining law and order and creating a congenial atmosphere to hold free and fair elections as scheduled.

The Punjab Government has described the Pakistani Islamic Front's appeal for a strike tomorrow as a blatant threat with regard to the violation of the code of conduct announced by the Election Commission. A provincial government spokesman said the use of force to express difference of opinion and criticism, disrupt normal civic life, and create difficulties for the people is neither appropriate nor permissible. The spokesman said the government is determined not to allow the disruption of normal life. He said the Election Commission's attention has been drawn to the necessary action regarding the violation of the code of conduct.

Six Die in Election-Related Violence in Balochistan

BK3108145993 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] The acting president, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, has expressed deep grief on the election-related violence at Chal Magsi in Balochistan yesterday. A spokesman for the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President House] said in Islamabad today the president has condemned the incident in strong terms in which a number of valuable lives were lost. The president said peace and tranquility is a prerequisite for elections. He, therefore, appealed to all candidates and their supporters to help maintain conducive conditions for the peaceful and orderly conduct of the election campaign. The president said the violence negated the very purpose for which the elections are held and would not be permitted under any circumstances. He said the government is determined to maintained law and order at all costs and will deal sternly with those who try to disturb the peace. The president has already directed the Balochistan government to take immediate effective action to bring the culprits to book and punish them according to law.

Meanwhile, a press note issued by the District Magistrate Chal Magsi said the conflict took place at Chal Magsi yesterday between two rival groups of the Magsi tribe as a result of old enmity. According to the press note, six persons were killed and two injured due to firing from both sides. Militia and civil armed forces have been called in and the situation is under control.

Qureshi Condemns Lahore Mosque Shooting

BK3108153593 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Seven persons died, and seven were injured when two motorbike riders equipped with automatic weapons opened fire on people offering Fajr [morning] prayers in a mosque near Chowburji in Lahore early this morning. The incident took place at about 0515 when people had just finished their morning prayers and were offering du'a [supplications] at the mosque. According to eye-witnesses, two unidentified motorbike riders pulled up at the mosque gate, one of them got in with an automatic rifle, and sprayed a burst of fire shots on namazis [worshipers]. Three persons died on the spot, while another four later succumbed to their injuries. Among those killed was the khatib [preacher] of the mosque, Hafiz Sher Mohammad. Official sources have described it as prima facie an act of terrorism. Police have registered a case and started in-depth investigation.

The prime minister, Mr. Moin Qureshi, has strongly condemned the brutal killing of seven innocent people in a masjid [mosque] at Lahore near Chowburji early this morning. The prime minister in a statement issued in Islamabad today said the government would make all-out efforts to trace down the culprits and bring them to justice. The prime minister said it was really unfortunate that the killing incident occurred on the day when the holy prophet, may the blessing and mercy of God be upon him, was born with a message of love and peace for humanity. He urged ulema to transcend differences and help the government maintain sectarian harmony and peace in the country. The prime minister said this despicable act in the masjid could only be the work of elements for whom Islam and the holy precincts of the masjid have no sanctity. He said this is the occasion for all the different religious groups to stand shoulder-to-shoulder to ensure that such criminals do not succeed in their attempt to create rift among the Muslims and disturb law and order. He said such disruptive elements will not be allowed to have any effect on the elections which will be held as scheduled. The prime minister spoke to the Punjab chief minister on telephone and instructed him to take prompt measures to trace the criminals. He said the incident should be immediately investigated and stern action should be taken against those responsible for such a criminal act. He also ordered suitable compensation to be paid to the relations of the deceased to ensure that the families do not face any financial problem.

Spokesman on Human Rights Violations in Kashmir

BK0109102493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 1 Sep 93

[Text] Pakistan has again urged the international community to take immediate steps to halt the gross human rights violations in occupied Kashmir and to grant the basic rights of the Kashmiris, including their right to self-determination. This appeal was made by a Foreign Office spokesman in a news briefing in Islamabad this afternoon. He said the extension of president's rule in occupied Kashmir by another six months reflects the fact that the Indian troops have failed In their bid to crush the movement of the Kashmiris.